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THE TIMES

South Africa's ultra right-wingers on the march, page 12

Mrs Thatcher orders security inquiry into pre-Budget leak

The Prime Minister has ordered a security inquiry into a pre-Budget leak in 'The Sunday Times'. It is believed in highly authoritative quarters, our Political Editor writes, that the leak could have come only from junior Treasury ministers. The predictions were substantially accurate but did not include the most market-sensitive action in the Budget—the Bank of England's new £1,000m issue of an index-linked gilt for pension funds. The Treasury is understood to have initiated the request for the inquiry. Most of the Cabinet learnt from the newspaper that the Budget was to be sterner than expected.

'The Sunday Times' is singled out

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

The Prime Minister is treating the pre-Budget exclusive report in *The Sunday Times* as a substantial leak, and she has instituted an official inquiry.

According to Whitehall sources, the inquiry team will question ministers as well as civil servants.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher confirmed yesterday in a written parliamentary answer to Mr Michael Meacher, Labour MP for Oldham, West, that the inquiry was in hand. He had put down a question asking if she would inquire into "the leaking of substantial details of the Budget to certain Sunday newspapers on 8th March".

The report in *The Sunday Times* is understood to be the main target; it was followed up in later editions of *The Observer*, and the next day by *The Times* and other newspapers which gave only partial confirmation.

The front-page report, by Mr Peter Stothard of *The Sunday Times* business news section bore the headline "Howe's shock budget—the big squeeze gets £4billion tighter". It spelt out almost all the revenue raising and other measures the Chancellor was to take, erring only on the side of slight leniency.

After it appeared it was said in highly authoritative quarters that something had been expected in the Sunday papers. In those quarters it was believed that the leak could have come only from junior Treasury ministers.

The Government insists the Budget is not "deflationary", but undoubtedly both Sunday newspapers' estimates of the total squeeze was news for the money markets.

No newspapers, however, included what experts consider to be the most "market-sensitive" action in the Budget: the Bank of England's new £1,000m issue of an index-linked gilt for pension funds and the pension business of life assurance companies and friendly societies.

In addition, The Sunday Time did not carry the £M3 targets on other monetary policy detail, nor the measures to relieve small businesses.

The report was right, however, about the £10 increase in vehicle excise duty, the lowering to the age of 50 of eligibility for granny bonds, and the minimum lending rate cut of 2 percentage points, the last a common enough prediction.

The Sunday Times report had an otherwise all-embracing list of changes including measures for the disabled, only slightly underestimating the increases in excise duties. For example, it predicted a 15p a gallon rise in the price of petrol, compared with the Budget's 20p rise.

It included the new tax on bank profits, the help for heavy users of fuels and the prediction of a 2 per cent increase in the retail price index. Its main failure in prediction was in suggesting that income tax allowances would be increased by only one third the rate of inflation. The Chancellor in fact offered no increase at all.

In Whitehall yesterday, it was insisted that the Treasury had initiated the request for an inquiry and that the Prime Minister had readily agreed.

The notion was resisted by those sources that ministers had been involved in a preemptive leak, since, so it was said, they would hardly have played down the effects of such surprises as the petrol price.

Against that, it is known that ministers like to "soften up" public opinion, taking care not to get the detail accurate so that afterwards the accusation of leaking cannot be sustained.

The difference with this year's Budget was that Mrs Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe went to considerable lengths to keep the details secret. Most of their Cabinet colleagues got first wind from *The Sunday Times* that the policy was to be much sterner than they expected, and there was consternation.

Official advice is not to expect much by the way of a sequel. If the leaker turns out to be a minister sympathetic to Mrs Thatcher it can be presumed that the matter could be settled with a discreet apology.

The fact is that Mrs Thatcher has made so much of Cabinet leaks in the Budget aftermath that she had little choice but to institute an inquiry into the Budget reports.

There were even more comprehensive leaks of the Chancellor's measures last November and of his Budget last March, but no inquiries were set up.

MIS inquiry, page 2
Leading article, page 13

I wish I'd never found out the Budget details...

LEAKS


Photograph by Bill Warhurst
Blow-dry: Helicopters over Cheltenham racecourse to fan the course dry for today's meeting.

Tory rebel crosses to Social Democrats

By Michael Hatfield

In a dramatic moment of rare parliamentary theatre, Mr Christopher Brocklebank-Fowler, the Tory MP for Norfolk, North West, yesterday crossed the floor of the Commons chamber and joined the Social Democrats sitting on the Opposition front bench below the gangway.

His short walk, after announcing his resignation of the Conservative whip, was greeted by dumbfounded silence on the Tory backbenches until he reached Dr David Owen and his colleagues. Then they broke into the kind of laughter which could be a defence mechanism, or an involuntary release of the steam that has been building up inside the party since Sir Geoffrey Howe announced his Budget last week.

The Social Democrats beamed, extending Mr Brocklebank-Fowler handshakes, and Mr Robert Maclennan (Caithness and Sutherland) offering his seat. The two have had a pairing arrangement for years.

Mr Brocklebank-Fowler, aged 46, told the Commons that the Government had knocked the stuffing out of British industry "and that a constituent had written to him last week stating 'What the hell is this Government trying to do?'"

Although the Tories knew that their defector had informed his constituency association on Friday that he would not stand as a Conservative candidate again, it began to dawn on them, as they listened to his criticisms, that something else was in the offing.

He then announced that he was seeking to join the Council for Social Democracy and became the first Tory to cross the floor since Austin Taylor joined the Liberals in 1906.

Mr Brocklebank-Fowler has been disenchanted with government policy for some time and, as he told a press conference last night, has had conversations with Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader in the past.

But it was the Budget that was the final straw, he said, and afterwards he had a private meeting with Dr David Owen.

He said he expected to fight the next general election as a Social Democrat, possibly in his present constituency.

When asked why, having resigned the Conservatives, he would not stand at a by-election, Mr Brocklebank-Fowler replied: "I was elected on promises at the last general election. It is not me who is not keeping those promises, it is the Government."

Was he frightened to face a by-election? "I have no doubt if there were a by-election I could win it by a street and a half. It would be a waste of time and money in these circumstances."

He had not considered joining the Liberals, because he felt the party had certain "policy hang-ups" and he did not agree in particular on their attitude to Nato, as he understood it.

He thought an alliance with the Liberals was extremely important, and joining the Council for Social Democracy, which was made up entirely of Labour people, might be helpful.

While acknowledging some useful measures in the Budget, he castigated the Government for creating conditions "which have caused record levels of bankruptcy and put hundreds of thousands on the dole queues".

Mr Brocklebank-Fowler held his press conference alone in the Westminster conference room where two weeks ago the dissident Labour MPs announced their breakaway Social Democrat group.

Dr Owen said after the Commons statement: "We welcome him to our [illegible] Conservative and [illegible] radical."

Mr Steel, [illegible] the Liberals welcomed [illegible] Tory defector [illegible] No [illegible] Constituency [illegible] Social Democrats [illegible] biter [illegible] King's Lynn correspondent writes). Mrs Peggy Schulman, vice-chairman of the North West Norfolk Conservative Association, said: "I am not in the least surprised. We are better off without him."

New party's debut [illegible] photograph, page 2

Syrians describe secret police reign of terror in Sunni city

From a Special Correspondent, Bonn

Despite assurances to the contrary by President Hafiz al-Assad's Government, the internal disturbances in Syria appear to be continuing, with assassinations by members of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood and retaliatory murders by Syrian Government agents.

The Brotherhood has been struggling against President Assad's regime for three years and last April fierce rioting broke out in Hama, a Sunni Muslim city of 100,000 people in central Syria. The Syrian Government said later than the violence had subsided—that stories of brutality by the secret police were fabrications and that the area had returned to normal.

Accounts by residents of Hama who have just arrived in West Germany, however, suggest that terrorism and counter-terrorism are continuing in their city. The men and women, who say that they fear for their lives if their identity is disclosed, told of public whipping and beating by security police, of weekly assassinations by members of the Syrian Special Forces—a paramilitary security unit controlled by President Assad's brother Rifaat—and of house-to-house raids by police in which thousands of men had been imprisoned without trial.

One man described how the population of Hama had been subjected to massive police and paramilitary searches three times in the past nine months and of how local doctors—apparently regarded by the authorities as being in secret opposition to the regime—had been taken from their homes and murdered.

He said that a local doctor called Shishakli, a distant relative of a former Syrian President, had been arrested at his home in the early hours of the morning by Special Forces police. "When his body was found in the morning", the man said, "Dr Shishakli's eyes had been gouged out and they had cut off parts of his body. They must have done it before they shot him."

The residents from Hama told similar stories of brutality and murders. They admitted that the Muslim Brotherhood had been assassinating Baath Party officials in the city but insisted that the Special Forces police had begun a systematic campaign of retaliation by murdering 10 local people for every government official killed.

In the past few weeks, they

Continued on page 5, col 4

Scots bank set for £17,500m link-up

By Roman Eisenstein
Banking Correspondent

Standard Chartered Bank, chaired by Lord Barber, former Conservative Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Royal Bank of Scotland are discussing a merger which [illegible] group combined deposits of £17,500m.

Both banks yesterday asked for their shares to be suspended. Talks for the largest banking merger since the 1960s are expected to be announced today.

The combined group would be a big force in world banking and would rank on a par with either Lloyds or Midland in terms of size or profitability.

There have been [illegible] that a takeover of the Royal Bank of Scotland was on the way and although the joint announcement speaks of a merger, it will in effect be a takeover by Standard Chartered, the larger of the two.

At the suspension of dealings yesterday the capitalization of Standard Chartered was more than £500m, and that of the Royal Bank of Scotland £215m.

Last night Mr Peter Graham, managing director of Standard Chartered, said talks had been going on for some months. Yesterday's announcement was prompted by rumours which pushed Royal Bank of Scotland shares from 87p to 96p before the suspension.

There has been speculation about the Royal Bank of Scotland since last summer and names mentioned included Citibank, the largest United States group, the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and Lloyds Bank.

The largest shareholder in the Royal Bank of Scotland is Lloyds Bank, with 16 per cent. Another important shareholder is the Kuwait Investment Office, with 7 per cent.

The last profits figure of the Standard Chartered Group was £170m, but most analysts expect that this year profits will reach about £230m.

That is because the group is internationally based, with a strong presence in such growth areas as South Africa, the Far East and California, where it recently acquired the Union Bank of California.

The British activities of Standard Chartered are modest and because of that the group has encountered difficulties with tax, in particular advance corporation tax.

The Royal Bank of Scotland was formed by the merger in 1968 of the Royal Bank and the National Commercial Bank. The group owns Williams & Glyn's, a high street group operating mainly in England.

Market reports yesterday suggested that the deal would be a share exchange. Standard Chartered would be offering one of its shares, last valued at 700p, for four Royal Bank of Scotland shares. That would value each Royal Bank of Scotland share at 175p, nearly twice [illegible] before suspension, but [illegible] than the 220p of assets [illegible]

Financial Editor, page 17
Border raid, page 17

MP is defiant over naming diplomat

By Our Political Staff

Mr Geoffrey Dickens, Conservative MP for Huddersfield, West, said last night that he still intended to name in the Commons a senior diplomat referred to in last week's child pornography trial.

He said: "I simply take the view that parents are absolutely appalled by the activities of the organization of which this diplomat was a contributing member. I have had many telegrams and letters supporting my intention to reveal the name. I [illegible] behind me."

Among the [illegible] was Mrs Mar[illegible] had an interview [illegible] with Sir Michael Havers, Attorney General, who had earlier appealed to him not to name the man. Sir Michael had said [illegible] would be achieved if the man's identity was revealed.

He said afterwards: "Nothing has been said to me to change my determination to name the man. But I will sleep on it. We had a frank, nice sensible discussion about all aspects of the case."

Earlier Mr Dickens had said: "It is no good the Establishment leaning on me. At this moment there are 4,000 children under the age of 17 missing in this country and most of them are in the 12 to 17 age group.

"Their parents are terribly concerned and the Paedophile Information Exchange, to which this diplomat was a contributing member, is absolutely sinister." The man had had no involvement and the police and many observers at the trial of [illegible]

[illegible] prosecuted.

[illegible] diplomat could face [illegible] page 2



Howe's shock Budget—the big squeeze gets £4billion tighter

Sunday Times, March 8: Very close to final Budget deflation of £4.2 billion.

Tory revolt on petrol cuts majority to 14

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent

More than a dozen Conservatives abstained and several voted against the Government's Budget proposal to raise the tax on petrol by 20p a gallon in the Commons last night. The figures were 295 to 281—a majority of 14.

The first division, on a motion to enable the Finance Bill to be brought in, was passed by 325 votes to 270, a Government majority of 55.

On the new spirits and beer duties, the Government had majorities of 71. The voting was 324 to 253 in each case. On tobacco duty the government majority was 100; the voting was 329 to 229.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, came out fighting and unrepentant as he wound up the four-day debate on the Budget. His closing words were drowned in uproar and shouts of "resign", from the Labour benches as he told opposition leaders that their policies would lead inexorably to higher interest rates, higher inflation and higher unemployment.

There was not the slightest indication in the Chancellor's final words that there was any intention to think again on any of the many proposals that have not only infuriated the Opposition and the TUC and alarmed the Confederation of British Industries, but have also caused considerable unrest on the Tory back benches.

Earlier Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, and one of the alleged "wets" in the Cabinet, placed himself firmly behind the tough budget strategy.

Mr Prior, catapulted into the firing line on the last day of the debate as the result of some devious plotting by Opposition leaders, who were apparently but mistakenly hoping for some sort of fratricidal confrontation on the Tory front bench, came into the chamber to cheers from both friend and foe.

But he is a wilier old fox than his bluff, and rubicund features might suggest to a

There were not many more cheers from Labour as he told the House that he did not know anyone who had realistically expected anything other than a tough Budget at a critical and difficult time for the nation.

A giveaway Budget to boost demand at a time of deep world recession would be a way to get on the old treadmill once again, so as to price ourselves out of goods and services in exports and imports substitution, he said.

That would be making all the same mistakes of the past, and he had seen no informed comment that did not accept that a hard Budget was necessary. There were still many inflationary tendencies, and to go down the old path of pushing more money into the economy would have been fatal.

Carefully avoiding any detailed discussion of the more unpleasant features of Sir Geoffrey's proposals, Mr Prior followed the lead of other ministers in the debate and sighted the bottoming out of the recession

When challenged, he was not too clear how or when that was to come about, but apparently there were hopeful signs from the North-west and the West Midlands, while various unspecified indicators were also making joyous noises.

Nor could he guarantee that unemployment would be any lower at this time next year. Rather gloomily, Mr Prior added that even after the recession was well over, and the country was beginning to climb back towards greater production, the number of unemployed would continue to rise.

Flanked on the Tory front bench by the Prime Minister and the Chancellor, Mr Prior was in ebullient form as he turned on the Labour alternative to the Government's strategy.

Opposition policies, he said, had been dismissed as disastrous. Put bluntly, they were to spend, borrow or print money, and when that did not work, to put on a prices and incomes policy to keep the lid on.

Parliamentary report, page 9

Industrial output hits lowest level for nine years

Industrial output fell by 1.3 per cent in January to its lowest level for nine years. For the three months to the end of January, output was 11½ per cent lower than in the same period a year ago. Manufacturing industry has suffered a greater slump with output falling by 15½ per cent compared with the previous year. The economic gloom deepened with the publication of the retail sales figures, where the provisional index for February fell by 1.8 per cent from January's high figure **Page 15**

£314m trade surplus

Britain's trade surplus in February slipped to £314m, less than half the unusually high surplus of £742m recorded in January. A sharp rise in imports and a substantial fall in exports may point to an early worsening of the trade balance this year. Total imports rose by 8 per cent in February **Page 15**

Water men accept offer

A majority of the 32,000 manual workers in the water and sewerage industry have voted in favour of accepting the 13 per cent pay package. However, according to a union official the majority was very slim. **Page 2**

Civil Service union move

The Civil Service unions called more workers out on strike and asked other unions for help in blocking the Government's contingency plans over income tax payments. Channel ports are to be disrupted and passengers may be affected. The unions claim complete success for their action at PAYE computer centres **Page 2**

Land grab angers West Bank Arabs

Arabs on the West Bank have reacted angrily to the latest Israeli attempt to build settlements before the June general election. Two days after the Israeli authorities gave three weeks for appeals by Arabs claiming ownership of [illegible] acres near Anabta which was to be declared "state land" an Israeli bulldozer started constructing an access road **Page 5**

Nuclear ban backed

Fifty-nine local authorities have supported a resolution from Manchester City Council calling on the Government to "refrain from the manufacture or positioning of any nuclear weapons ... within the boundaries of our city". Some councils are also challenging the Government's plan to improve civil defence **page 3**

'Observer' deal plea

Lonrho has applied to the Government for permission to take over *The Observer*. Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, had talks about the proposal deal with Mr Robert Anderson, chairman of Atlantic Richfield, the present owners of the newspaper, and will make a statement soon **Page 4**

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[illegible] executions

[illegible], March 16.—The Iraqi Government has had 176 members of its Armed Forces executed and put several officers under arrest, the Syrian daily *Al-Baas* reported

Civil servants call out more groups on strike

By David Felton
Labour Staff

The Civil Service unions yesterday stepped up the pressure on the Government by calling out on strike several more groups of workers. More than 1,000 at the two main pay-as-you-earn tax computer centres were already on strike.

Union leaders also asked other unions to ensure that the effects of the indefinite strike by tax computer staff at Shipley, near Bradford, and Cumbernauld, near Glasgow, were not reduced by the Inland Revenue's contingency measures.

The executive of the Banking, Insurance and Finance Union, meeting in London today, will consider a request from the Civil Service unions for its members to "black" any attempt by employers to pay income tax through the clearing banks for transmission to a special Inland Revenue account.

Inland Revenue management have also been told that its attempts to persuade employers to pay tax receipts into special accounts at the National Giro Bank would also be blocked by union members at the bank.

The unions are also looking for ways of making the strike by 260 computer staff at value-added tax headquarters in Southend more effective. It is understood that the Customs and Excise Department has found a method of processing large VAT payments without passing them through the computer centre.

The department is thought to have devised a system under which large payments are sent by employers in envelopes containing a special post code which means they are routed to another establishment for processing.

The centre is responsible for a net contribution of VAT receipts to the Exchequer of about £350m a week. It is thought that at least £100m was transferred to the Government last week despite the strike.

The unions said last night that the action at the PAYE computer centres, which together process tax payments and national insurance contributions of more than £600m a week, was completely successful.

The tax year is coming to its close and payments by employers are heavier than usual.

The action announced yesterday will be in customs areas at Channel ports, aimed at disrupting freight cargoes between France and the United Kingdom.

Customs workers in Dover went on a one-day strike yesterday in one of the cargo sheds and that port will suffer disruption later in the week by "guerrilla" industrial action, as will 10 other Channel ports.

Some passengers may be affected and the unions reported last night that ferries were leaving Weymouth for the Channel Islands without passengers clearing customs.

Union officials meeting yesterday to coordinate action in the ports and airports drew up plans for further disruption of airports. Details will be announced later this week.

Key staff in Companies House, Cardiff, have joined their colleagues in London on strike and the unions said their action would halt about 55,000 company searches a week.

Workers at several defence establishments joined other workers at naval dockyards and computer centres on strike. Union leaders believe their action will affect operations at the Faslane Polaris submarine base.

Contingency plan: More than 30,000 employers were due to receive guidance yesterday from the Board of Inland Revenue on how to make their monthly PAYE and national insurance payments (Peter Hennessy writes).

They are urged to complete their normal pay slips and to hand them in at their clearing bank or through the Post Office Giro rather than remitting them to a local tax office.

Each of the employers normally makes a PAYE and national insurance return of more than £10,000 a month. Their March payments are due on Thursday.

The Inland Revenue normally collects £2,000m from PAYE and £1,000m from national insurance each month. Officials have no idea how much money their scheme will attract.

Union sources believe that many employers will be only too ready to delay payment in a period of recession, with cash-flow difficulties affecting many companies.

The plan to use the clearing banks and the Post Office was one of several contingency measures prepared by the Government's Economy (Official Civil Service) Cabinet Committee as a way of mitigating the effects of selective strikes designed to raise the public sector borrowing requirements.

Whitehall brief, page 4
Letters, page 13

Strike threat by building workers over pay freeze

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

Leaders of 700,000 construction workers last night threatened industrial action if employers stand by their demand for a four-month wage freeze followed by a 5.75 per cent increase in minimum earnings.

Negotiators for the two biggest unions in the building and civil engineering industries reacted sharply to the proposals when pay talks opened yesterday.

Together with the pay increase, employees would see their working week reduced from 40 to 39 hours from November 2. Minimum rates would go from £80.40 a week to £85.02 for craftsmen, and from £68.60 to £72.54 for labourers.

The executive of the Union of construction, Allied Trades and Technicians is expected to reject the offer today on the grounds both of the level of increase and the four-month postponement from the annual settlement date, June 30.

Mr Leslie Wood, the union's general secretary, said that the offer was "very disappointing indeed. If they were pushed into this situation I am convinced that my members would take industrial action over this kind of offer".

But they would be seeking detailed talks on the whole of the 10-page response handed to union leaders by the employers.

Union leaders evidently hope for an improved offer when talks are resumed on April 9. There are doubts about the willingness of building workers to take industrial action in a climate in which unemployment in the industry is estimated this month to be above 300,000.

However, Mr George Henderson, national construction officer of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said last night that some members had already passed resolutions "saying, as they are going to be on the dole anyway, we should make a fight of it now".

Calls had been received from of all the union's 11 regions for selective strikes if the employers held to their "intransigent attitude".

Water workers agree to 13% settlement

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

Leaders of the four unions representing 32,000 manual workers in the water and sewarage industry announced last night that votes taken at meetings over the past two weeks had shown a majority of the workers in favour of accepting the pay deal which is worth, in all, 13 per cent.

The decision means that a five-month-long set of negotiations that at one stage went to the brink of a national strike has ended.

The majority in favour of ecceptance of the offer, according to one union official last night was very slim. The employees will be told the figures over the next few days.

In some areas of the country there was strong opposition to the pay offer, which improves basic rates by just over 10 per cent, and it is possible that some of the more militant workers will take unofficial action in protest at the decision.

The union consultations were based mainly on regional delegate conferences.

The results showed a majority of the conferences voting to reject the offer, but union leaders, in an attempt to reach a consensus of their members' views, based their decision last night on a count of all the members covered by the conferences.

The unions' leaderships had made clear that an overall vote to reject the offer, which comes close to matching the settlement reached by the miners, would have been a vote for a national strike.

Other groups of workers, particularly in the gas and electricity industries, will expect to reach similar agreements.

Paedophile case diplomat would have faced purge

By a Staff Reporter

Since 1948 Whitehall has operated what is officially known as a "purge procedure" designed to detect men and women in sensitive government posts who may harbour pro-communist or pro-fascist sympathies. It also covers those who may be vulnerable to blackmail by a foreign intelligence service because of "character defects" including sexual deviance.

In the wake of the Burgess and Maclean affair, the Eden Government admitted in 1956 that it had been Whitehall's practice for some time to regard such defects as reason to debar a person from security-sensitive appointments.

The system was supervised by the Treasury (since 1968 by the Civil Service Department) with fieldwork being undertaken by investigating officers attached to the Ministry of Supply (now the Procurement Executive of the Ministry of Defence), though the Foreign Office, then as now, vetted its own people separately.

In some cases, if an official admitted to his establishment officer, or in the case of the Foreign Office to the chief clerk, that he had, say, homosexual leanings, he could be regarded as having made himself less vulnerable to blackmail by "coming clean", and allowed to stay in his post.

But Whitehall sources made clear yesterday that paedophilia, even if admitted, would be treated as a character defect of such magnitude that the official would almost certainly be asked to resign, or at least be transferred to non-sensitive work.

The diplomat concerned in the present case had been in government service for some years by 1948. Shortly afterwards he was transferred to a particularly sensitive post in the defence community. Though it took some years for the Treasury and the Ministry of Supply to catch up on all those who needed to be investigated on the basis of the 1948 procedure, he would almost certainly have been examined as a matter of priority in the late 1940s.

Either he had yet to develop his tendencies or chose not to confess them. Thereafter he would have been rescreened at five-yearly intervals.

Since 1948, 25 civil servants have been dismissed for security reasons, 25 resigned, 88 were transferred to non-sensitive work, and 33 were reinstated.

Student loan scheme plans abandoned

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

Government proposals for a student loan scheme have been abandoned because of the high cost involved in the short term.

Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, believes that while there is much to be said for introducing a loan scheme in Britain to supplement student grants, and while the experience of other countries such as Sweden and the United States has shown such schemes to be feasible, the costs involved make any such scheme a political non-starter, particularly in the present economic climate.

Both Mr Carlisle and Mr Rhodes Boyson, Under-Secretary of State for Education and Science, who has pursued the idea with vigour for almost a year, believe that such a scheme must be used in the first instance to abolish the contribution which parents above a certain income level are supposed to pay towards their child's student grant, but which many do not pay.

The estimated cost of abolishing the parental contribution is £100m. That would also be the cost to the Government in the early years of introducing a loan scheme to replace the contribution. Repayment of loans would probably not begin until a couple of years after a student graduated.

Mr Carlisle will submit a paper to a Cabinet subcommittee, probably some time next month, proposing in only a half-hearted way a loan scheme similar to the Swedish one, involving a basic grant, which would be topped up with an optional loan, repayable when the graduate had reached a certain income level.

Graduates would be exempted from repayment if they failed to reach that level because of unemployment, marriage, sickness, or because their job was poorly paid.

While pointing out the attractions of such a scheme, Mr Carlisle will also make clear in his paper that it could not be introduced unless his Cabinet colleagues agreed to find the £100m required to dispense with the parental contribution, and hundreds of millions more if the scheme was extended to cover those students now eligible only for discretionary awards.

Print union chief attacks 'Times' report of merger

By Our Labour Staff

Mr John Jackson, general secretary of the Society of Lithographic Artists, Designers, Engravers and Process Workers (Slade) attacked *The Times* last night for a report in yesterday's issue about proposals for a merger between his union and the National Graphical Association (NGA).

A sentence in the report suggested that the proposals would in effect mean that Slade would be taken over by the NGA.

Mr Jackson said that under the proposals Slade "will play an active part in the new union at chapel, branch and national level, as will indeed the existing NGA union and chapel officials".

The Times report was damaging to a move "which everyone in the printing industry with serious concern about its future has been helping and encouraging over the past two years".

Mr Leslie Dixon, president of the NGA, said last night that under the proposals Slade would be an integral part of the new union.

Jersey wedding coin

Jersey is to issue a £2 crown-size coin to mark the marriage of the Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Spencer on July 29.

Financial burden unacceptable, 14 companies say

Welsh channel worries ITV chiefs

From Tim Jones
Cardiff

The future of the Welsh language fourth television channel will be brought into question tomorrow, when Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, will be asked to explain how the service, due to start next year, will be financed.

Mr Whitelaw, who is to appear before the Parliamentary Select Committee, on Welsh Affairs, has already been given a report of written evidence which shows that 14 of Britain's 15 independent companies are unhappy at the prospect of financing the minority channel.

In its evidence the Independent Television Companies Association states: "The Welsh fourth channel is wholly different in concept and is incompatible with commercial broadcasting.

"To establish a separate television channel for such a tiny minority, nine tenths of whom are already offered an intelligible alternative of the excellent services available to the rest of the United Kingdom population, can be justified neither in terms of good broadcasting nor on those of sound commercial practice."

The association document adds that the £15m the companies will be expected to find to fund the new service will be "an unacceptable further burden on an industry which will be fighting off substantial losses in the near future".

The authors of the document are acutely aware that the fourth channel concession was wrested from the Government only after a campaign by Welsh language activists.

The Government had previously decided to disregard a manifesto promise to establish the channel but changed its mind last September when faced with growing anger and the emotion surrounding the threat by Mr Gwynfor Evans, president of Plaid Cymru, to fast until death.

The associations document notes that there are ethnic minorities in other parts of the United Kingdom. "It would be highly damaging to them to be seen to be paying a subscription designed specifically to alleviate the problems in Wales."

Members of the Welsh select committee have been told by a senior Home Office official that if the companies cannot find the money for the channel the Government is not empowered to give financial aid.

It is planned to start broadcasting 22 hours a week of Welsh language programmes on the fourth channel in Wales from September 1982. Estimates for the cost of the service, which could attract a peak viewing figure of 70,000, go as high as £35m a year. It is not expected to attract Welsh-language advertising. The cost would be roughly shared betweent the independent companies and the BBC.

Only one independent television company, HTV, which serves Wales and the west, was excluded from the association's report. Mr Ronald Wordley, managing director of HTV, said yesterday: "The company is wholly committed, morally and financially, to the success of the fourth channel in Wales."

According to the Independent Television Companies Association the Welsh language channel can only be justified "if it is seen as a social service judged by standards which are remote from those of the rest of British broadcasting and wholly removed from the natural responsibilities of the public broadcasters."

Mr Christopher Brocklebank-Fowler, the former Conservative MP for Norfolk, North-west, who yesterday joined the Council for Social Democracy.

New party 'is likely to be formed this month'

The social democratic party will probably be formed before the end of this month, Mr Roy Jenkins said last night. He added that he would stand as a candidate for it in a suitable by-election in the course of the present Parliamen.t

Asked in an independent television interview in the Midlands about the formation of the new party, he said: "I have not a firm date to announce, but it will not be very long to wait. It will probably be before the end of this month."

The Social Democrats would not intervene as a council or a party in the May council elections.

"But if the Social Democrats who are standing in the May elections want to use local enterprise, then very good. We shall, however, be contesting local and by-elections thereafter and no doubt in the course of this year.

"I certainly think it is right that I should offer myself if people want me to stand in any constituency as a possible candidate at a by-election in the course of this Parliament".

The former deputy leader of the Labour Party was extremely optimistic about the future of the social democrats.

"Do not underestimate the response we have had. I believe there is a greater sense of flux and opportunity in British politics than for 60 years.

On differences between the social democrats and Liberals, Mr Jenkins said: "I have no particular reason to seek differences with the Liberals because we intend to work in very close alliance with them, but as two parties, two rivers flowing together in the same direction.

"We can be stronger flowing as two separate strands at present. The Liberal Party has worked well in the past but it has not struck this chord of response in the imagination of the people that we have.

"I think that in alliance with the Liberals on broad areas of policy we could command a majority in the next Parliament.'

Mr Jenkins was speaking to John Edwards on *Left, Right and Centre*, ATV's political programme for the Midlands.

The Council for Social Democracy has received more than £70,000 in donations from the public in response to its advertisement in *The Guardian* on February 5 and to other press coverage.

Mr Alec McGiven, secretary of the council, said yesterday that about 25,000 letters of support had been received from all over the country. Letters are still arriving at the rate of about 300 a day and each post brings about £1,000 in donations.

Offers of help from the public are now being sorted into regions and constituencies.

Three guilty of helicopter plot to free prisoner

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Reporter

Three men were convicted at the Central Criminal Court yesterday over a plan to free a prisoner from Brixton prison, in London, using a hijacked helicopter.

The jury failed to reach a verdict on a fourth man after deliberating for most of the day, and Mr Justice Pain ordered a retrial. The wife of the prisoner, one of the men convicted yesterday, was acquitted f taking part in the conspiracy.

During the past two weeks the jury had been told of a plan to release Brian Keenan, aged 39, from the prison in the autumn of 1979. He smuggled out a detailed diagram, including the exercise yard from which he was to be freed by helicopter.

Yesterday Mr Keenan, Robert Campbell, aged 38, of Holland Park, west London, and Richard Glenholmes, aged 47, of the same address, were convicted of conspiracy to escape. Mr Campbell and Mr Glenholmes were also found guilty on firearms charges.

The retrial was ordered for Robert Storey, aged 24, also of Holland Park. Mrs Christine Keenan, aged 44, of Northern Ireland, was aquitted. Two other women have pleaded guilty to conspiracy but have yet to be sentenced.

Today the judge will consider three convicted men against their being sentenced before there is a result in the retrial of Mr Storey.

BL man admits theft

A BL shop steward yesterday admitted being involved in a car parts smuggling ring. Brian Harris, aged 41, of Leasowe Road, Rubery, Birmingham, changed his pleas from not guilty and admitted theft of a car and conspiracy to steal and handle parts.

The prosecution at Birmingham Crown Court claimed he was the leader of an organization at Longbridge that stole more than £37,000 of parts. Three other men deny conspiracy charges. Joseph Keogh, aged 23, of Bolney Road, Quinton, had admitted conspiring to handle car parts. He and Mr Harris will be sentenced after the trial of the other three. The trial continues today.

Bishops tell minister of Ulster unease

From Christopher Thomas
Belfast

Four Church of Ireland bishops yesterday took the unusual step of telling Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, that Ulster Protestants were "uneasy" about the meeting between Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Mr Charles Haughey, Prime Minister of the Irish Republic, in Dublin three months ago.

In a 90-minute meeting at Stormont, they also talked about economic, industrial and security matters. One of the bishops, Dr Arthur Butler, said afterwards that since the summit "there has been a feeling of unease in the country". That had been greatly accentuated by the activities of the Rev Ian Paisley.

Mr Atkins also met a deputation later from the non-sectarian Alliance Party, and faced fresh demands to proscribe the Ulster Defence Association, the biggest paramilitary force in the province. Mr Oliver Napier, the party leader, said Mr Atkins had indicated that at present he would not ban the UDA.

Mr Napier said: "There is no logic in a situation where an organization whose members have committed thousands of terrorist offences, including many murders, is not proscribed, while many others are."

The Government has consistently refused to ban the UDA, partly because it is regarded as too big to be effectively proscribed. The organization claims 10,000 members.

Shooting inquiry: A joint Army-police inquiry was going on yesterday into a shooting on Sunday in which a soldier aged 20, died (the Press Association reports).

He was Private Patrick McKenna, a bachelor, of West Lothian, Scotland. He was serving with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots, based at Ballykinler, near Dundrum, co Armagh.

MI5 inquiry on Budget leak to 'Sunday Times'

By Peter Hennessy

The Security Service MI5, has been asked to provide a team of investigators to help Treasury officials in the conduct of a formal inquiry into the disclosure by *The Sunday Times* on March 8 of items contained in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Budget statement two days later.

The leak is regarded as particularly grave by senior men in Whitehall as it involved information which, if believed and acted upon on March 9, could have enabled individuals to gain financially.

Whitehall authorities are clearly convinced that Mr Peter Stothard, author of the news report, had gained access to the small exclusive club of ministers and officials who were privy to the outline of the Budget statement in the week before its delivery.

Mr Stothard declined last night to talk about his "scoop" or how he obtained it. Mr Frank Giles, Editor of *The Sunday Times*, said: "I do not know how Mr Stothard got the story. I do not know his source. But I do know it is remarkably accurate."

Asked if he would allow Mr Stothard to be questioned by the police should they be called in, Mr Giles replied: "I do not see any obligation to. I shall deal with that when it arises."

Whitehall makes a particular fetish of Budget information. One senior man said: "A budget secret is a terrible thing. It is like Holy Communion. There is nothing higher."

Civil servants were at pains last night to differentiate between a briefing given to selected lobby correspondents by the Prime Minister in January and the material gleaned by Mr Stothard. At a meeting at Number 10 on January 12, Mrs Margaret Thatcher told the political editors of *The Times, Financial Times, The Guardian* and *The Daily Telegraph* that the Budget would not involve changes in the standard rate of income tax.

The argument last night in official circles was that the Prime Minister can authorize herself to disclose what she likes and to whom she chooses. The sources of Mr Stothard' article were not so authorized.

Under paragraph 9,904 of "Estacode", the Civil Servic "bible" of "do's and don'ts" Crown servants are forbidde to disclose any informatior whether classified or not, with out official authorization unles it is in the public domain.

Whitehall leak inquiries i the past, according to insider have generally proved to b elaborate, but vain, exercises find the culprit or sufficier evidence to prove the offenc if a particular individual fal under heavy suspicion.

MI5 men, working alongsid the establishment officer of th department concerned, start b circulating a questionnaire all ministers and officials wh had access to the material di closed.

They are asked to name the journalists with whom th lunched or talked in the peri before the leak. They are al asked if they divulged t information concerned.

Those judged to merit fu ther attention are interview personally, often several tim A short list of possible leak is drawn up and, in most cas the operation ends in frust tion at that point, after a peri of months and when the fur has died down.

BUDGET PREDICTIONS, MARCH 8

	Sunday Times	Observer	Budget March 10
Net deflationary effect	£4,000m	£3,000m	£4,300m
Excise duties	Up almost twice inflation rate (ie, 30%)	Up 20-30%	Up twice inflation ra
Beer	Up 3p	Up 3p	Up 4p
20 cigarettes	Up 12p	Up 12p	Up averag 14p
Petrol	Up 15p	Up 15p	Up 20p
Spirits	Up at least 50p	Up 60p-90p	Up 60p
Wine	Up 10p	Up 12p	Up 12p
Vehicle excise duty	Up £10	Up £20	Up £10
MLR	Down 2 points	Down 2-3 points	Down 2 poi
Rooker-Wise tax index	One-third (ie, 5%)	5%	None
Child benefit	Up more than 5%	Up 50p	Up 50p
Granny bonds	Down to 50 years	Not mentioned	Down to years
BNOC bonds released?	Yes	Not mentioned	Yes
Tax-free redundancy pay	Doubled to £20,000	Not mentioned	Raised t £25.00
PSBR 1981-82	£11,000m	£11,000m	£10,500
Bank windfall tax	Yes	Not mentioned	Yes

Concern over government delay on data protection

By a Staff Reporter

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, is expected to announce within the next 10 days that the Government is committed in principle to measures to protect citizens against the misuse of data stored on computers.

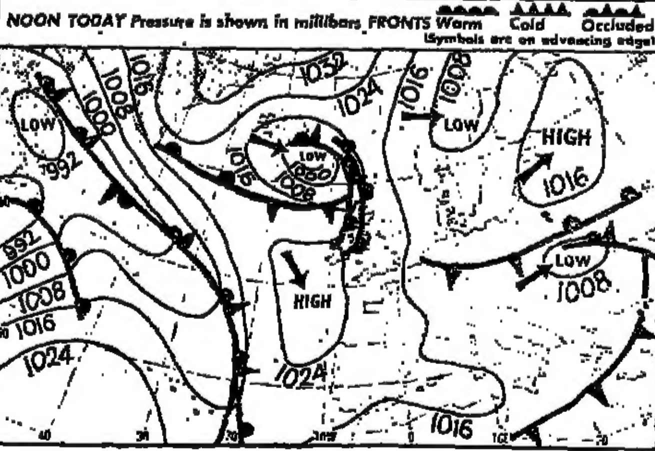
The long-awaited statement will receive a mixed reaction from the computer industry and computer users, the medical profession and civil libertarians who have been pressing for many months for legislation and believed the Government had already passed the "in principle" stage.

It will be seen by many further delaying tactic by Government, which has so shown itself to be unwillin bring in data protection lation proposed by the Li committee in 1978.

Mr Robert Kilroy Labour MP for Ormskirk, yesterday that Mr Tim Raison, Minister of State a Home Office, had indicated a decision on the princip data protection was ne before Britain could sign Council of Europe conve

"I am absolutely app that we are still talking an issue of principle."

Weather forecast and recordings



NOON TODAY

b—blue sky; bc—half clouded; c—cloudy; ... h—hail; m—mist; r—rain; ... th—thunderstorm; p—showers; pr—periodical rain with snow. Wind ... in mph.

Today

Sun rises: 6.11 am Sun sets: 6.08 pm
Moon sets 5.07 am Moon rises: 2.42 pm
Full moon: March 20.

Lighting up: 6.38 pm to 5.38 am. High water: London Bridge 11.43 am, 6.6m. Avonmouth 5.03 am, 11.3m; 5.38 pm, 11.8m. Dover 9.12 am, 5.7m; 9.29 pm, 5.9m. Hull 4.12 am, 6.4m; 4.30 pm, 6.6m. Liverpool 9.15 am, 8.2m; 9.43 pm, 8.3m.
1ft=0.3048m 1m=3.2808ft

A rather cold N airstream will give way as a deepening depression moves towards NW Scotland.

London, SE, Central S England, East Anglia, Midlands, Channel Islands: Sunny intervals, occasional showers, heavy and wintry in places; wind N, moderate; max temp 6° to 8°C (43° to 46°F).

W Midlands, Central N, NE England: Sunny intervals, scattered wintry showers, some rain or sleet in evening; wind N, moderate, backing W; max temp 6° to 8° (43° to 46°F).

SW England, S Wales: Bright or sunny intervals, scattered showers, cloudy later; wind N, backing W, moderate or fresh; max temp 8° to 10°C (46° to 50°F).

N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen: Bright or sunny intervals, scattered wintry showers, cloudy with some rain or sleet later, snow on hills; wind max temp 6° to 8°C (43° to 46°F). N, backing W, moderate or fresh;
ibshrdl cmfw vbg xzq[illegible]taoi
Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow: Bright at first, rain or sleet spreading from W, some snow on hills; wind N, backing W, moderate or fresh; max temp 6° to 8° (43° to 46°F).

Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney: Bright at first, some rain or snow later; wind NW, light, becoming SW, fresh or strong; max temp 5° to 7°C (41° to 45°F).

Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland: Rather cloudy, rain at times; wind SW or W, light, increasing to fresh or strong; max temp 6° to 8°C (43° to 46°F).

Shetland: Sunny intervals, wintry showers, more persistent sleet or snow later; wind N, light, backing SW, strong; max temp 4°C (39°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: Outbreaks of rai some snow in N, bec brighter in the W and S showers, wintry in places; cold and windy.

Sea passages: S North Sea, of Dover, English Channel Wind NW, moderate or fres slight or moderate.

St George's Channel, Irish Wind NW, fresh or strong moderate or rough.

Yesterday

London: Temp: max 6 am pm, 10°C (50°F); min 6 6 am, 5°C (41°F). Humidity 81 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 0.04in. Sun, 24hr to 6 pm. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm. millibars, rising.
1,000 millibars = 29.53in.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Akrotiri	s	20	68	Cologne	r	[illegible]	[illegible]	London	f	8	[illegible]	Oslo	c	[illegible]	[illegible]
Algiers	r	16	61	Copnhgn	sn	0	32	Luxmbourg	r	1	34	Paris	c	8	46
Amsterdm	f	7	45	Florence	f	15	59	Madrid	f	13	55	Reykjavik	r	[illegible]	[illegible]
Athens	c	18	64	Funchal	c	17	63	Majorca	f	13	55	Rome	s	16	61
Barbados	c	28	82	Geneva	f	[illegible]	48	Malaga	f	17	63	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Barcelona	f	15	59	Gibraltar	r	18	64	Malta	s	18	64	Stockholm	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Beirut	s	18	64	Helsinki	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Miami	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Tel Aviv	s	21	70
Berlin	s	10	50	Innsbruck	c	[illegible]	[illegible]	Montreal	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bermuda	c	18	[illegible]	Istanbul	f	[illegible]	[illegible]	Moscow	sn	0	[illegible]	Vancouver	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Biarritz	c	9	48	Jersey	f	6	43	Munich	[illegible]	7	45	Venice	r	[illegible]	[illegible]
Brussels	f	7	45	L Palmas	f	21	70	Naples	c	16	61	Vienna	r	3	[illegible]
Budapest	c	13	55	Lisbon	[illegible]	[illegible]	59	New York	r	7	45	Warsaw	s	0	[illegible]
Chicago	s	1	34	Locarno	s	12	54	Nice	s	17	63	Zurich	c	6	[illegible]

Overseas selling prices
Australia $2; Austria Sch 20; [illegible] BD 0.650; Belgium B frs [illegible]; [illegible] 100; Cyprus 350 mils; [illegible] Dkr [illegible]; Dubai Dir 7.00; [illegible] France Frs 5.50; Germany Dm [illegible]; Greece Dr [illegible]; Holland Dfl [illegible] [illegible] 1.75; Iraq ID 0.500; Irish [illegible]; Italy L 1100; Jordan [illegible]; Kuwait KD 0.450; Lebanon [illegible]; Luxembourg Lf [illegible]; Madeira [illegible]; Malta 20c; Morocco Dir [illegible]; [illegible]; Oman [illegible] 0.700; [illegible]; Portugal Esc [illegible]; [illegible]; Saudi Arabia [illegible]; Singapore [illegible]; Spain Pes 100; [illegible]; Switzerland S Frs [illegible]; [illegible] 5.50; Tunisia Din [illegible]; Canada $1.50; UAE Dir [illegible]; Yugoslavia Din [illegible]

All subscription rates on request.

هكذا من الأصل

Nuclear ban motion backed by 59 councils

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is winning support among local authorities, 59 of whom have backed a Manchester City Council resolution opposing nuclear weapons.

The resolution called on authorities throughout Britain to urge the Government to "refrain from the manufacture or positioning of any nuclear weapons . . . within the boundaries of our city", and asked them to make similar statements. Further 34 local authorities have rejected the resolution.

The scale of support indicates that the issue will figure in the local election campaign in May. The nuclear campaigners are preparing a series of questions to be put to candidates.

Although few authorities are likely to have nuclear weapons positioned within their boundaries, their attitudes have taken the initiative from the Government, which plans soon to launch its campaign explaining the case for nuclear weapons.

Some of the authorities are challenging the Government's efforts to improve civil defence. Mr John Kotz, deputy leader of the Labour-controlled council at Hackney, east London, has said: "We should not be doing civil defence at all. It is an absolute waste of time."

Mr Ted Knight, leader of the Labour-controlled Lambeth council, has announced: "We are no intention of kidding people that they can survive a nuclear holocaust."

They have been joined by Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council in Huddersfield. It has supported the Manchester resolution and called on the Government to ensure that the Kirklees "share" of the defence budget . used to create jobs for the thousands of unemployed people in the area.

Kirklees has also informed Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, that it intends to take no part in civil defence contingency planning involving preparations for a nuclear war. But the council's emergency planning for peace-time contingencies will continue.

If local authorities refuse to cooperate, Mr Whitelaw can take action under the Civil Defence Act, 1948. Regulations introduced in 1949 lay down that if the Home Secretary, or his designated minister, is satisfied that a local authority has failed to discharge its civil defence functions he may empower himself or someone else to discharge them in the name and at the expense of, the defaulting authority.

Action has been taken in the past against Coventry council in 1954 and St Pancras Borough Council in 1957.

Stornoway fights to exclude the RAF and keep the sabbath

From Ronald Faux
Stornoway

Stornoway, the quiet capital of Gaeldom and the Western Isles, has suddenly discovered that it could occupy the front line in a Third World War. The airport there is strategically so well placed that the Ministry of Defence wishes to spend £40m on upgrading it as a reserve forward base for Nato.

The Western Isles Council and other objectors are strongly resisting the plan. A public inquiry into the planning application opened yesterday in Stornoway as the Keep Nato Out committee planned a ring of protest bonfires near the airport, reminiscent of the ancient way in which the clansmen were called to arms in times of threat.

Air Marshal Peter Bairsto, deputy commander-in-chief, headquarters Strike Command, and a deputy regional commander with Nato in Europe, told the inquiry why Stornoway is so attractive to the Forces.

It was the nearest airfield in the United Kingdom to the vital operational area of the Iceland-Faroes gap, he said. Stornoway's position allowed aircraft operating there significantly to reduce their reaction time to any Soviet air or sea activity.

It was already capable of being used as a fully operational airfield, but at present was not suitable for more advanced aircraft, particularly the Tornado.

The upgrading would mean adding about 1,500 feet to the runway and providing more fuelling facilities, strengthened hangars, and extra housing. In peacetime Stornoway would be a centre for Nato exercises, lasting up to a fortnight each, three times a year.

"Constraints on the defence budget do not allow funds for the RAF to operate Stornoway fulltime in peacetime. We have just enough facilities in Scotland for peacetime training, but not for wartime. But in wartime we must get our aircraft as close to the operational area as possible."

Questioned by Mr Charles Kemp Davidson, QC, Dean of Faculty, for the Western Isles Council, the air marshal said that exercises would involve round-the-clock flying seven days a week. Understanding would be reached about sensitive days, the sabbath, for instance.

"You can restrict flying to certain hours on Sunday, but not on Sunday altogether?", counsel asked. Air Marshal Bairsto agreed.

The objectors have given a long list of reasons why the airport should not be developed further.

There is a feeling that improving the base would bring an unacceptable level of noise and pollution and desecration of the sabbath. It is also felt that it would overwhelm parts of the community where a work camp was planned and cause a serious loss of good farmland.

Objectors add that the rich variety of bird colonies would be affected and the chance of a serious accident would increase sharply.



Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother with men of the 1st Battalion, Irish Guards at Chelsea barracks yesterday after presenting shamrock to them on the eve of St Patrick's Day.

Beauty created by new reservoir as water covers first 1,500 acres

Regional report

John Chartres
Kielder,
Northumberland

The geography of the north Tyne valley in Northumberland is changing and new maps will soon have to be made by the Ordnance Survey. Only three months after the "plug" was put in for the impounding of the Kielder reservoir a surface water area of 1,500 acres has appeared.

By next year, when the impounding is complete, "Kielder Water" will be twothirds the size of Windermere with a surface area of more than 2,500 acres.

Although there was much dissent during two public inquiries about the wisdom of, and necessity for, the £150m scheme, many local people and regular visitors to the area are already expressing excitement and pleasure at the beauty of the scenery being created.

The Northumbrian Water Authority and the Forestry Commission (which owned most of the land being flooded and which controls the surrounding forest land) are placing strong emphasis on the recreational by-produce of the scheme, drawn up to ensure adequate water supplies to the industrial Northeast into the next century.

All forms of water sports will be encouraged but controlled, and many dinghy sailors, yachtsmen and fishermen believe it will become one of the finest stretches of inland water for their sports in Europe.

The Kielder Water Club has already been formed and experimental sailing may take place this summer, although the full recreational facilities will not be open to the public until next year.

Wide concrete launching aprons for dinghies have been built at Leaplish, the best sheltered bay and 200 moorings are being laid for sailing and motor cruisers of up to 28ft. A six knot speed limit and a decibel level control of engine noise from all boats will probably be imposed.

One of the biggest users of both the water and land-based recreational facilities is likely to be the Scout movement which is establishing a national centre providing for 40,000 "camper-nights" a year.

A heavy influx of visitors is expected from Easter onwards; 135,000 people visited the information centre last year. Although caravan, camping and car park sites have already been built by the Forestry Commission and will be increased, the establishment of new hotel and self-catering accommodation in chalets or log huts still awaits agreements being drawn up with commercial developers.

Mr Brian Hibberd, district officer of the Forestry Commission, said that Kielder was never likely to be the place for people in search of suntans. "It is essentially a place for the fairly adventurous, for people who like open spaces, a certain amount of wildness and with an interest in all forms of wild life. It can be quite a harsh environment at times."

One cloud does loom over the environment being created, a cloud of *ceratopogonidae*, or biting midges, which are apt to form on still and warm summer mornings and evenings.

Neither Mr Hibberd nor Dr A. J. McLachlan of the department of zoology at Newcastle upon Tyne University, who is an expert on the subject, can see any simple answer to a problem which recently moved a retired farmer to write a poem about "Them Kieldor Midgies" in the newspaper published by the water authority.

Mass slaughter by sprayed insecticide would probably upset the balance of nature, Dr McLachlan said; and would in particular have a disastrous effect on the more benign cousins of the biting midges, the *chironomidae*, the non-biting midges which are a vital part of the diet of the fish in the area.

Mr Hibberd thought that most visitors would be able to tolerate the midges,

"They do not appear every day; sometimes we can get through nearly a whole summer without them being a problem", Mr Hibberd said.

"In any case, they are not really a peculiar local problem; midges swarm in many laka and forest areas, particularly in west Scotland, Scandinavia and Canada, and people seem to learn to live with them."

Nevertheless, Mr Robert Allen, of the Glebe House at Bellingham, was moved to write in *Kielder News*: "Mankind has suffor'd doon the ages, ivv'ry plague an' storm; saint Geordie fertled dragons, an' young lambton slew hes worm; but they've nivvor fund a champion yet to rid them u' yon swarm; U them bloody Kieldor midgies!"

In brief

Lady Barnett's £458,182 will

Lady Barnett, the broadcaster, who committed suicide after a conviction for shoplifting, left estate valued at £458,182 net in her will, published yesterday.

Lady Barnett, aged 62, of the White House, Cossington, Leicestershire, left personal bequests worth £4,250 and the residue in trust to her son Alistair for life.

Other wills, page 14

Two remanded after alleged rifle theft

Barry Riley, aged 23, a Royal Marine, of Victoria Road, Exmouth, was remanded in custody until March 24 by magistrates at Wonford, Exeter, yesterday, charged with stealing a 7.62mm self-loading rifle and ammunition belonging to the Ministry of Defence. Robert Slade, aged 27, of Madeira Villas, Exmouth, was charged with receiving and was remanded on bail.

CB pirates warned

Mr Victor Gilbert, Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire, yesterday warned citizens and radio enthusiasts that illegal equipment would be confiscated and users prosecuted. Transmissions were a serious threat to police and fire service communications, he said.

Police beat crime

Eight police officers who went back on the beat at Bentilee, Stoke-on-Trent, have cleared up 130 burglary and theft cases in two months. Mr Charles Kelly, Chief Constable of Staffordshire, is to extend the beat to five new ports.

Treasure trove award

Mr Graham Sully, aged 20, bulldozer driver of Taunton, Somerset, who unearthed 275 silver coins on a Taunton building site last summer, is to be paid £3,335 after an inquest jury declared them treasure trove.

Woman president

Miss Sally Kenney, aged 21, of Magdalen College, Oxford, has been voted the first woman president of the junior common room next term. An American, she is a graduate of Iowa University.

Spinster's body found

The body of Miss Elizabeth Wood, aged 54, has been found seven miles from her cottage in Monyash, Derbyshire. She was reported missing five months ago. Police said there were no suspicious circumstances.

Woman found dead

The fully clothed body of a young woman was found in Battery Park, Greenock, near Glasgow, yesterday. The police launched a murder inquiry.

tudents to old a ew poll

om Our Correspondent
ford

xford University students' ders have decided to hold a v election for the presidency the Students' Union in May r the abandonment of a poll weeks ago because of an gation of ballot-rigging.

lans to hold a new poll in y five colleges, where evide of ballot-rigging in favour one candidate had been ged, have been dropped r two students threatened union with legal action.

wo Conservative students they would seek a High rt injunction to stop the taking place. They claimed the election tribunal set up nvestigate the ballot-rigging rge had no authority to r a partial new poll.

ow the election will take e on May 21, when it is intended to hold elections more minor union posts. It ot known yet whether all candidates in the previous tion will be able or willing tand again. At least two examination commitments.

eanwhile it is possible that culprits who are alleged to forged ballot papers at the disputed colleges will r be caught.

iss Morag McDermont, ty president of the union, : "The tribunal has come dead stop on this. We are to get the university in- d, because we feel that we d be maintaining our own omy, and the police prob- would not touch it with a pole.

he executive will have to der what to do at the be- ng of next term. It is very difficult, we are not ied to hunt down its."

orter sentences urged ease crowding in jails

ances Gibb

istrates, who were respon- for 56 per cent of prison ces imposed in 1979 change their sentencing the National Association e Care and Resettlement enders (NACRO) says to-

briefing paper the asso- says that both magi- and crown courts could a substantial contribution lucing pressure on the system by more use of stodial sentences and prison sentences for lent offenders.

paper shows that in 1979, llion people were sen- by the courts, of whom were sentenced for in- offences and those s triable by either crown istrates' courts.

were sentenced to custody, and a further 17,000 were committed to prison for defaulting on fines.

If fine defaulters were included, magistrates' courts were responsible for 56 per cent of people sent to prison that year and crown courts for 44 per cent.

But as magistrates could give sentences of only up to six months, the people they sentenced formed a much smaller proportion of the prison population, less than a quarter, according to 1979 prison statistics.

The average sentence length given to men of 17 and over in that year for all offences was 3.6 months in the magistrates' courts and 18.5 months in the crown courts.

The Relative Use of Imprisonment by Magistrates' Courts and Crown Courts (free from NACRO: 169 Clapham Road, London, SW9

Pressure mounts for monopoly inquiry into 'Observer' deal

By Dan van der Vat

Lonrho wrote to the Government yesterday asking permission to take over Britain's oldest Sunday newspaper, *The Observer*, as required by section 58 of the *Fair Trading Act*, 1973.

The application was addressed to Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, who also yesterday received Mr Robert Anderson, chairman of the American oil company, Atlantic Richfield the present owners of the paper, for talks about the proposed deal.

Confirming last night that the meeting had taken place and the application documents had arrived, the department said that Mr Biffen could be expected to make a statement soon. Interest is focused on whether he will refer the proposed takeover to the newspaper panel of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The takeover cannot take place legally without Mr Biffen's written permission. The law requires him to refer it to the commission because the circulation of *The Observer* exceeds 500,000 copies a week.

He may waive a referral only if he is satisfied that the paper is "not economic as a going concern" and "if the newspaper is to continue as a separate newspaper, the case is one of urgency". Both conditions must apply to justify a waiver.

The Observer is known to be losing money, which leaves the question of urgency. Mr Biffen waived a referral of the recent takeover of Times Newspapers by Mr Rupert Murdoch because the papers were losing money and the Thomson Organization had said it would close them this month unless they were sold by then.

Lonrho, headed by Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, is opposed to calling in the commission, which would take up to three months to prepare a report.

Mr Paul Spicer, a Lonrho director, said yesterday: "The delay would be damaging to the paper itself, and I do not suppose either party [buyer or seller] is prepared to put up with a reference if it is not required by the law".

Lonrho believes a reference is unnecessary, Atlantic Richfield is understood to be anxious to conclude the deal as soon as possible.

Last month's unexpected agreement between Mr Anderson and Mr Rowland was not preceded by any public threat to close the paper. Its journalists are still demanding a reference to the commission and have received the public support of such figures as Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien, the outgoing editor-in-chief, and Mr David Astor, the former editor, who is still a director of *The Observer*.

Planning powers are passed to inspectors

By John Young
Planning Reporter

The Government is to divest itself of responsibility for adjudicating on all but a small number of planning appeals, it was announced yesterday.

Regulations will be laid before Parliament, probably in June, transferring further powers to Government-appointed inspectors, from whose decisions the only appeal will be to the High Court.

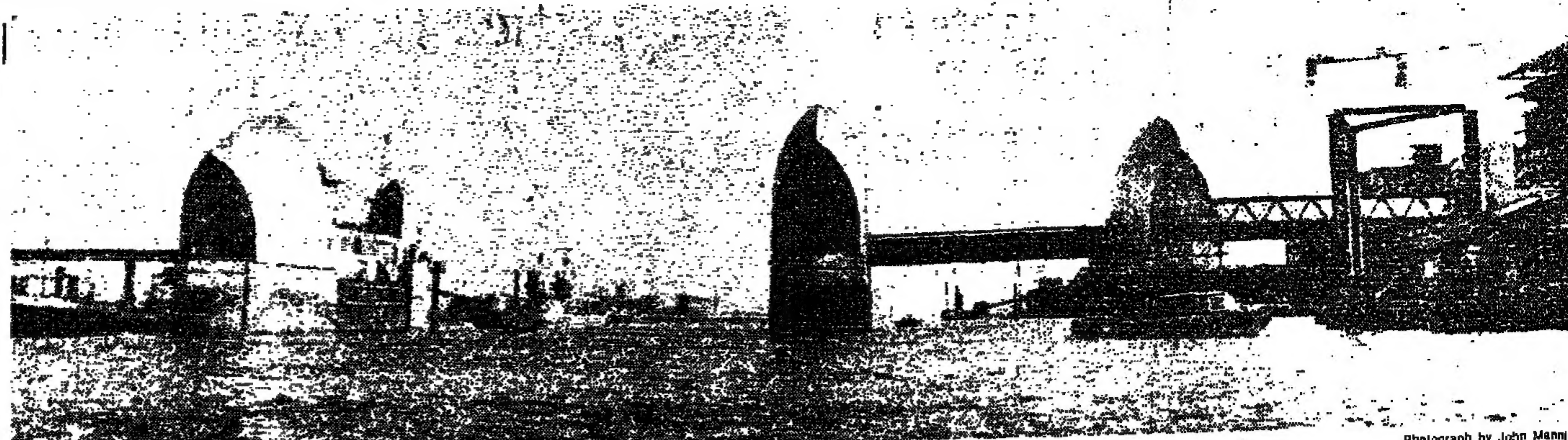
However, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, will retain the right to make the final decision in cases of national significance, or where there is a possibility of inter-departmental conflict, or where the sites or issues in dispute are considered to be of more than local interest.

Examples would certainly include the applications by the British Airports Authority to develop Stansted, by the National Coal Board to mine in the Vale of Belvoir, and by the Atomic Energy Authority to make test drillings for the possible disposal of nuclear waste.

They would probably also include large road schemes, which are the joint responsibility of the departments of environment and transport, and projects involving "sensitive" sites, such as the banks of the Thames in London, or where changes are proposed to outstanding buildings or landscapes.

At present between 1,500 and 2,000 appeals a year, approaching 15 per cent of last year's total, are decided by the Secretary of State. By adopting "a more discriminating approach" ministers hope to reduce the proportion to no more than 5 per cent.

Yesterday Mr Giles Shaw, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department of the Environment, said that the campaign was already showing considerable results, and that the number of appeal decisions issued in the last six months of last year was 70 per cent higher than in the same period in 1979.



Photograph by John Manni

The Thames flood barrier under construction at Woolwich, showing three of the nine piers with their steel-clad timber roofs in position.

Whitehall brief: Industrial action by civil servants poses some sensitive defence questions

Spectre of a 'fifth column' in unions that could sink Britain

By Peter Hennessy

A spate of newspaper reports last week on the disruption caused to signals intelligence stations and defence establishments by striking civil servants has raised once more a spectre that regularly haunts a section of the British public that is particularly sensitive to the threat posed to the country by the Warsaw Pact.

The questions such people ask include: does a pro-Soviet "fifth column" exist in the British trade union movement, and is it prepared, in a period of international tension, to sabotage airfields and other key installations, thereby destroying "Nato's unsinkable aircraft carrier" as the United Kingdom is sometimes called, and could it give the Russians victory on a plate?

From a variety of sources in the British and American defence communities and the *British trade unions, the answer* to the second half of the question seems to be a firm "no", although the KGB resident in the Soviet Embassy in Kensington was not asked for his opinion. Whether such a potential "fifth column" exists at all is difficult for anybody outside MI5 and the Soviet secret service to determine.

Such is the sensitivity of the subject in general, that nobody was prepared at the end of last week to talk about the subject "on-the-record". But a senior union official, with long experience of representing civil servants in defence establishments, said: "Clearly, if there is a period of international tension that is likely to result in an emergency and lead to mobilization, there is no question that civil servants would be the most loyal workers. There would be every support from the Civil Service in the event of war".

Asked if there were pro-Russian cells inside the Civil Service trade unions, he replied: "None at all. That is totally ridiculous. If you do not think that is a fair answer, there are bound to be a number of 'nutcases' that have to be locked up as in the last war, but they are not exclusive to the trade union movement."

Since the onset of the cold war, as sections of the *Government War Book* now available at the Public Record Office show, Whitehall has maintained detailed plans for "special security measures" inside the United Kingdom in any build-up to a future war with the Soviet block, including censorship and precautions against subversive actions and propaganda.

The war book is regularly revised under the supervision of a secret Cabinet Office group, the Transition to War Committee, chaired by Sir Robert Armstrong, Secretary of the Cabinet. Routine "tactical evaluations", in which senior officers descend without warning on military bases and airfields to announce "You are now at war", normally involve, as part of their simulation of the real thing, a fifth column" element.

Such "subversives" try to penetrate perimeter fences for the purposes of sabotage. In the past, they have actually had the words "trade unionist" inscribed on the back of their donkey jackets, a practice halted when some sensitive soul in the Ministry of Defence decided it was less than tactful.

The Public Record Office files disclose another practice that is still standard today whereby members of MI5 are involved in the deliberations of the Government's planning organization for the handling of industrial emergencies, the Civil Contingencies Unit, if it is felt that the unions concerned have a strong pro-communist influence inside their membership.

For all such "doomsday" ingredients in the work of the contingency and war planning communities, who, by their very nature, have to prepare for the worst case, insiders in those worlds supported the view expressed last week by the anonymous Civil Service union official, agreeing that public servants would not be a cause for concern if an emergency materialized.

As one experienced man put it: "The *contingency planning* you are talking about is much more for others in the trade union movement, though we think we could cope with them. *But we do not think we would* have any trouble from our own people."

What about the United States Government which has an enormous stake *in keeping* Britain's "unsinkable aircraft carrier" afloat? A Washington source, familiar with the United Kingdom, seemed equally calm last week.

"I doubt that it is a high priority target for the Central Intelligence Agency because the United Kingdom has such an outstanding war record. The United States intelligence community does not focus on friendly countries. We would look on this as a British problem. It would take a hell of a situation before the United States Government made any representations to the British."

Brain-stem death criteria in court case

By Nicholas Timmins

Two cases in the Court Appeal involving conviction murder, due to be heard tod may *lead to the first legal s* port for the concept that br stem death is equivalent to death of a patient. They n also provide the backing of c law for *the British criteria* which brain-stem death is fined.

The cases, which are be watched with intense inte by *doctors and lawyers*, a turn on the determination when death occurs, someth that is scarcely defined in E lish law.

An appeal and an applicat for leave to appeal inv assaults where the convic men maintained that actions doctors in treating the victi including the turning-off of support systems, were mate in the deaths.

The practice of most doc is to accept that death of brain-stem, which cont breathing, heart-beat and capacity for consciousness, inevitably result in the dead the patient.

Once the criterias for es lishing that the brain-s death has occurred as laid d by the conference of the m cal royal colleges, have b met, the patient is decl dead

Although the royal coll are confident that the pr dure will stand the test of the cases before the Cour Appeal are the first in w it will have undergone det scrutiny in the courts. S doctors maintain that fu tests, for example, an ele encephalogram (EEG) mea ment of brain activity in higher, thinking, parts of brain are needed

Dr Ian Kennedy, reade law at King's College Lon said yesterday it seemed to that the court would hav *conclude that the definitio* death was for it to decide a matter of law. That w provide the first clear definition of death in Engl

Navy may opt for cut-price frigate

By Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent

The Royal Navy is drawing up plans for a cut-price frigate because it will not have as much money as expected to carry out its shipbuilding programme. Proposals to meet the financial dilemma will be prepared before the next meeting of the Fleet Requirements Committee at the Ministry of Defence.

If the committee agrees, which seems likely, the Navy will cut short its expensive Type-22 frigate programme and switch to a new kind of ship, known as the Type-23.

The Type-22, or Broadsword class of 3,550-ton ships, cost about £130m each, and six are either at sea under construction or about to be ordered. But the Type-23, which will include a towed sonar array for the detection of enemy submarines, will be a smaller, 2,800-ton economy version costing only *half as much*.

The Navy's main concern is to save money on individual ship design while preserving the total number of vessels. It *also needs to find money for* a new class of conventional submarine to replace the present fleet of Oberon boats, and to replace the Sea King helicopter.

The Navy *will* not have to meet the costs of the £5,000m Trident missile package on its own. But the need to build the four new nuclear-powered submarines to carry Trident will curtail its building programme for hunter-killer nuclear-powered submarines, because there is only one dockyard, Vickers at Barrow, capable of doing the work.

An alternative solution would be to reopen a second nuclear submarine-building capacity at Cammell Laird. But that would cost more than £30m and it is understood that Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, has decided against it.

All three Services are engaged on an economy operation before the annual long-term costings review in May, which *Mr Nott has made clear will* entail a fundamental examination of Britain's defence commitments.

The Navy's task is also com*plicated by the need to keep* two frigates or destroyers on station in the Gulf of Oman to safeguard British shipping interests during the Iran-Iraq war. Six ships are needed to fulfil that mission; two are always coming or going, and two are in Mombasa for rest and recreation.

No decision has been taken yet on how long the warships with their supply vessels should remain in the area. But the *Americans have made clear* that they welcome at least a token presence of the Royal Navy.

Senior officers, like those of *the other two Services*, are *now* believed to be drawing up proposals for future "out of area" deployment, which Mr Nott can distil before presenting to the Cabinet

That will constitute Britain's contribution to a so-called Rapid Deployment Force to protect Western interests outside Nato's sphere of influence.

Mr Nott has made clear that he wants to get as much value for money as possible from *future equipment purchases*.

Labour threat to S African stake in North Sea

By John Huxley

An opposition spokesman on energy said yesterday that a future Labour government might revoke licences for North Sea oil and gas exploration *granted to consortia containing* a South African stake.

Mr Edward Rowlands, MP for Merthyr Tydfil, said it was a national disgrace that such *interests were being allowed to* buy their way into the North Sea, "especially when one recalls the role of South African companies in evading and breaching sanctions legislation against the Smith regime in Rhodesia, passed by successive British governments".

He added: "The Government should reconsider these licences immediately. If not, a Labour government will, I am sure, revoke them." He emphasized, *however*, that he could not commit the party to such a course.

Two South African companies have received shares in licences *in the seventh round of awards* made by the Department of Energy. They are: Chartered Consolidated, the British arm of the large South African mining conglomerate, Anglo American, and Union Oil Exploration, a British-registered subsidiary of Federale Mynbou, another mining group.

According to a report by the Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAM) circulated among MPs yesterday, altogether South-African-controlled companies are involved in six consortia awarded licences since the early *1970s*. The others were in the fourth licensing round, made by the Conservatives in 1971-72.

Anti-apartheid officials met *Mr Hamish Gray, Minister of* State for Energy, and his colleagues in February to raise the question of North Sea licences as part of general discussions *on oil supplies to South Africa*.

Mr Michael Terry, its executive secretary, said: "With a growing stake in the North Sea, South African interests can both press for a change in British policy and allow North Sea oil to be sold to countries covered by the existing guidelines, then arrange for it to be re-exported to South Africa".

Under the present trade guidelines there is no mandatory embargo on oil sales to *South Africa. However, there is* a voluntary agreement whereby oil is sold into the European Community, to International Energy Agency countries, or to a *handful of traditional custo*mers, such as Finland. That precludes direct sales to South Africa.

Last night the Foreign Office said that participation in North Sea ventures was subject to normal commercial criteria, unrelated to the ultimate destination of oil found and subsequently produced. In any case, existing voluntary guidelines would prevent supplies being sold direct to South Africa.

Students reject by colleges 'in their thousand

By Our Education Correspondent

Thousands of prospe students were turned from colleges all over country last year, accordi a survey by *the National A* ation of Teachers in Fu and Higher Education lished today.

Three quarters of the u *branches in some 100 col* reported that they could meet the demand from su qualified students.

More than half of the *students unable to find* wanted vocational cours subjects such as cat engineering, accountancy, retarial studies and n nursing.

The main reasons give turning students away cerned inadequate reso lack of space, inadequate erials, cuts in teaching and the refusal of grant students to study outside local authority.

Mr Peter Dawson, g secretary of the union, "This is a scandal. It is time colleges were give proper resources

Nationalists turn on Scottish Labour Party

By a Staff Reporter

The Scottish Labour Party's call for a Scottish assembly with legislative and tax-raising powers was criticized yesterday by the Scottish National Party.

Mr James Fairlie, the party's vice-chairman for policy, said: "Labour's devolution costs money. Independence is free."

He said that in the Labour scheme the Scots would have to pay twice over in taxes "for the sake of a piddling assembly with few real powers.

"The Labour Party shied away from the real issue of who has control over Scotland's oil and gas resources. If a Scottish parliament could raise revenue from those, there would be no question of double taxation."

Mr Fairlie added that whatever the Labour Party in Scotland said or did was in any case of little importance because the English party took the final decisions.

Parole as way of cutting prison population

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Extending the use of parole to shorter sentences is one of the options that Mr Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, is seriously considering as part of his campaign to reduce the prison population.

"I think that is somewhere definitely where I might take action", he told the Home Affairs Select Committee of the House of Commons yesterday. More details are expected in the review of the parole system *to be published about Easter*.

But another idea, increasing remission, might lead to an increase also in the length of sentences, he said.

Mr Whitelaw expressed disappointment that the prison population, which had dropped during the prison officers' dispute, was now again more than 43,000. The accommodation was designed for 39,000.

He described that as a human problem of daunting proportions. It was difficult to main*tain humane standards of treat*ment, he said. To bring prisons up to date would cost about £1,000m. Each prisoner now cost on average about £7,000 a year.

Mr Whitelaw made plain that he was still looking to the courts to cut sentences of non-violent offenders and not send so many to prison.

Written evidence from the Home Office said that halving the sentences of all non-violent offenders given less than four years would cut the prison population by about 8,500. If that happened, 12 prisons in poor condition might be closed.

Mr Whitelaw said the Government had a programme which should produce an increase of about 5,000 prison places in the 1980s. Even if the population was much lower than it was now, such a programme would be needed to replace the prisons which were wearing out.

Priest 'led bank robbery'

From Our Correspondent
Dublin

A Roman Catholic priest was accused in the Special Criminal *Court in Dublin yesterday* of being the leader of an armed gang which escaped with £45,620 in a bank raid in the west of Ireland in June, 1979.

Father Vincent Forde, aged 35, from Enniscrone, co Sligo, denied robbing the Bank of Ireland in Ballina, co Mayo, and forging insurance documents and car hire rental forms.

The prosecution said he was due to appear for trial in February, 1980, but failed to answer bail. He was apprehended last July and had been in custody since.

The court was told that *Father Forde pretended to be* an American tourist when he hired a car in Dublin. Some days later five men burst into the bank at 8.30 am, held up the *staff and the manager's* young son and forced them at gunpoint to open the safe.

The priest was arrested later that morning. When he *appeared in Sligo District Court* he was recognized by bank staff, the prosecution said.

The case continues tomorrow.

Court clash over plea to reimpose restrictions

Paul Vickers, aged 46, a surgeon, and Pamela Collison, *aged 33, a political researcher*, were remanded for a week yesterday at Gosforth Magistrates' Court, jointly charged with the murder of Mr Vickers's *wife in June, 1979*.

An adjournment was granted after the magistrates refused applications by defence solicitors to reimpose reporting *restrictions, lifted at the request* of Miss Collison's solicitor at an earlier hearing. They took more than half an hour to reach their decision.

When it was announced, Mr Gavin McKenzie, for Mr Vickers, asked for an adjournment while he applied to a High Court judge. He said he would make *the application* today, *and* if leave was granted the matter could be heard this week.

The magistrates agreed to an adjournment until next Monday, and the pair were given bail to appear then.

Mr Vickers, of Moor Crescent, Gosforth, and Miss Collison, of Margaret Road, New Barnet, Hertfordshire, arrived separately for yesterday's hearing. Mr McKenzie, asking for restrictions to be reimposed, said *they had been lifted originally* at the request of Miss Collison in October, when the pair were *charged separately with murder*ing Mrs Vickers.

In December they had been charged jointly with murder. Mr McKenzie said that although the *two sets of proceedings* were clearly linked enough to be joined together, it did not alter his view that before the application to lift restrictions was *made there were two separate* proceedings.

He told the court: "In relation to the joint charge, no application has been made for *the lifting of restrictions*. What happened before December has nothing to do with these proceedings."

He said Mr Vickers had never *asked for the lifting of* restrictions, and Miss Collison had not asked to lift them since the charges were made joint.

Mr William McMenemy, chairman of the magistrates, said: "This court takes the view that the two accused are charged jointly, and the proceedings are subject to the initial lifting of reporting restrictions".

He said the order made lifting restrictions applied to the *complete*

'Knockout' man cleared of murder charge

John Colin Wallace was cleared yesterday of a charge of *murdering Mr Jonathan Lewis*, an antique dealer, at Lewes Crown Court. But Mr Wallace, who has admitted in a trial at Lewes Crown Court having a *relationship with Mr Lewis's* wife, still faces a manslaughter charge.

Mr Justice Kilner Brown withdrew the murder charge against *Mr Wallace, aged 37*, information officer with Arun District Council, Sussex, after hearing legal submissions.

His decision came on the tenth day of the trial of Mr *Wallace, of Dalloway Road, Arundel*.

He is alleged to have killed Mr Lewis, aged 29, after falling in love with Mrs Jane Lewis when they worked together organizing the It's a Knockout television programme filmed at Arundel last July.

Mr Wallace was said to have placed him into a car boot and knocked Mr Lewis unconscious, then dumped him in the Arun.

But the judge said yesterday that beyond question the cause of death was drowing. Mr Lewis was alive when he entered the water.

The trial continues today.

Former policeman offered young crimin partnership in crime, court told

From Michael Horsnell
Middlesbrough

A former London detective sergeant offered a young criminal a partnership in crime supported by a network of corrupt policemen, Teesside Crown Court at Middlesbrough was told yesterday.

It was alleged that a former police sergeant, John Symonds, told the criminal: "Always to let me know straight away if you need anything, because I know people everywhere, because I'm in a little firm in a firm.

"Don't matter where, anywhere in London I can get on the phone to someone I know I can trust, that talks the same as me."

Mr Symonds, aged 45, has pleaded not guilty to three charges of corruption involving a total of £150.

The Crown alleges that in 1969 he obtained money from Mr Michael Perry, from south London, who was at that time a criminal, as a reward for helping him over an arrest.

Mr Symonds, who was committed on bail for trial in 1972, left the country and returned only last year.

Tape recordings said to have *been made by Mr Gareth Lloyd* and Mr Julian Mounter, reporters on *The Times*, of meetings between Mr Symonds and Mr Perry, when money was handed over, were played to the jury.

Later Mr Lloyd, who is now a BBC television reporter, said in evidence that *The Times* initially retained the master tapes when documents were handed to Scotland Yard because the newspaper did not trust the police.

Mr Geoffrey Rivlin, QC, for the Crown, said Mr Symonds offered Mr Perry a "licence" to commit crime

He added that when The Times published its exposé the matter was investigated for Scotland Yard by Det Chief Supt Bill Moody. But Mr *Moody* would not be called to give evidence because he was sent to prison in 1977 on corruption charges involving pornography.

Mr Rivlin described three meetings between Mr Perry, then aged 23, and Mr Symonds, who was based at the time at Camberwell *police station*.

A tape recording of the first meeting, at which, counsel said, Mr Perry gave Mr Symonds £50, was of poor quality, but at *the second meeting, observed* by the two reporters, b results were obtained.

Mr Symonds got int Perry's car when they m Dulwich. The vehicle had fitted with two reco devices.

Mr Rivlin said that Symonds, who accepte second £50 payment, "Round here, anytime you I can give you a licence. *might want to do some* with some help. We can sorts of things.

"If it was big I would with you. You can't have *better insurance than that* you?"

Mr Symonds said he arrange distractions suc false alarms to clear the st of police while Mr Perry ried out his criminal acti If anything went wrong could arrest a "mug" offences committed by Perry.

At a third meeting an £50 was handed over, co added.

On another occasion, Rivlin said, Mr Symonds said: "We have got villains in our game than have got in yours."

The hearing continues

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Pentagon visited by South African intelligence officers

From Ray Kennedy
Johannesburg, March 16

The United States Embassy in Pretoria said today that it had no idea that five South Africans granted visas to visit Washington were high-ranking military officers.

The five are reported to have entered the Pentagon and to have briefed National Security Council officials before they were turned away by the State Department.

There has been no official comment by the South African Government over what it probably regards as something of a coup in obtaining a hearing from key conservatives in the Reagan Administration before the confirmation of Dr Chester Crocker as head of African affairs to Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State.

The American Embassy in Pretoria, in tones of extreme hurt, said tonight: "We definitely did not know that these men were high-ranking military officials. They were issued with visas on the basis of three diplomatic Notes which identified them only as government officials. The Notes said they were going to Washington for consultations with the South African Embassy."

The statement does not stand close examination. The South African mission, headed by Lieutenant-General P. W. van der Westhuizen, head of military intelligence, included Rear Admiral W. N. Du Plessis, naval staff officer, intelligence, and a former South African defence attaché in Washington.

Admiral Du Plessis was expelled from the United States in 1979 in retaliation for South Africa's expulsion of two United States Embassy officials after the ambassador's private aircraft was found to have been fitted with a "spy" camera.

South Africa claimed that the aircraft had been used to photograph "sensitive installations" and it is generally considered that the object of its photographic reconnaissance was to investigate what South Africa has been up to in the field of nuclear missiles.

In the normal diplomatic shake-up, after a change of Presidents, Mr William Edmundson, the present American Ambassador to South Africa, a Carter man, has tendered his resignation and it has been accepted. It would seem others might follow.

Mr John Fisher, president of the American Security Council, a private and very conservative Washington body which is said to have notified the State Department that it intended to invite senior South African intelligence officers, was reported here today as saying: "We really are in trouble if our embassy in South Africa does not know who these people are."

Meanwhile, in a separate development, the American embassy in Pretoria denied today that either President Reagan or Mr Haig had promised to meet Mr Dirk Mudge, who leads a South West African delegation from the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance Party (DTA) at present in the United States.

The visit is seen as an attempt to lobby conservatives to support the attitude of the Pretoria-backed DTA after the breakdown of the Geneva talks and South Africa's expulsion from the United Nations General Assembly debate on Namibia (South West Africa).

The embassy in Pretoria released the text of a letter from Mr Lannon Walker, acting Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, to Mr Mudge.

It said the Reagan Administration was reviewing its approach to southern Africa, including the Namibian issue, and would consult all interested parties. The DTA delegation was asked to delay its Washington visit until the review was completed, but this did not preclude direct talks

The embassy statement today said there had apparently been a misunderstanding over Mr Walker's letter, but that "specifically neither President Reagan nor Secretary of State Haig promised to meet with Mr Mudge at a future date. No appointments with DTA officials have been scheduled".

Zimbabwe Army sent to work with civilians

From Stephen Taylor
Salisbury, March 16

Former guerrillas recently absorbed into Zimbabwe's integrated National Army were working side by side with people in the countryside to restore the economy and develop natural resources, Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, said in a broadcast today.

While there has been speculation in recent months that units of the Army, which has already taken in about 20,000 former guerrillas and is growing at the rate of 3,000 every month, would be used on reconstruction projects, the Prime Minister's speech was the first official indication that such a measure is to be adopted.

White MPs of the Rhodesian Front Party have been sharply critical of a government pledge that has enabled every guerrilla to opt for a place in the National Army. The MPs assert that this would result in an army of more than 50,000 men which the country has not the need for or the resources to sustain.

Mr Mugabe's statement was the second on the Army to be made by a senior member of the Government in the past few days. Mr Emmerson Munangagwa, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's office, confirmed at the weekend that 15 integrated battalions had been formed under British training since the middle of last year.

The statements are apparently designed to reassure the public that the integration process is back on course and the Army is stable after the factional clashes last month in which more than 200 people were killed. The clashes involved soldiers in three battalions and former Zipra and Zanla guerrillas who are yet to be integrated.

A commission has been set up to establish the causes of the violence and apportion blame.

Mr Mugabe said tonight: "Our army is an army of the people . . . it is here to serve the State and Government, not the interests of any minority or the selfish pursuits of individuals."

He added: "The day has passed when the people feared the sight of a soldier. Today every soldier in the Zimbabwe National Army must extend the hand of friendship to the people and respect (their) wish for continuing peace, law and order."

People had the right to expect that their protectors were disciplined. Anyone who was mistreated or threatened by a member of the Army should report it through established channels.

Britain fails on EEC farm spending limits

From Our Own Correspondent
Brussels, March 16

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, failed here today in an attempt to persuade EEC Finance Ministers to set limits on the growth of agricultural spending, which at present swallows 70 per cent of the Community's budget.

The only support for Sir Geoffrey came from Herr Hans Matthöfer, the West German Finance Minister, who agreed that it was vital for the annual growth in farm spending be kept "markedly below" that of the Community's revenue sources.

Sir Geoffrey and Herr Matthöfer also agreed that the increase in EEC farm prices should be kept below the level of inflation and that the binding 1 per cent limit on the rate at which value added tax can be levied to finance EEC policies should not be raised.

But it proved impossible to get the other Ministers to agree on a declaration setting out guidelines of this kind for Agriculture Ministers, who today held their first full debate on this year's farm price settlement.

Mr Peter Walker, the British Agricultural Minister, and his EEC colleagues are hoping to reach agreement on the 1981-82 farm price package during a three-day meeting at the end of this month. The Finance Ministers do not meet again until April 6 and could be faced with fait accompli.

Correction

The Foreign Legion was formed to serve exclusively outside France and not inside France as was stated in our story about their 150th anniversary which appeared on March [illegible].

Soviet Union battles to save its greatest lake

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, March 16

Nowhere has the fight for the Soviet environment been more hotly or publicly fought than at Lake Baikal, the largest, deepest and once reputedly cleanest lake in the world.

But despite a series of increasingly tough laws to protect what is known as the "Pearl of Siberia" from pollution, many environmentalists fear that the interests of local industry are so entrenched it is almost too late to save the beautiful lake.

Lake Baikal, stretching the equivalent of the distance between London and Edinburgh, is a natural phenomenon long prized by Soviet naturalists and tourists. A fifth of the world's fresh water is concentrated in this great cleft in the earth, fed by 336 rivers in central Siberia.

The dense forests and the moss of the *taiga* filter the melting snow, catching impurities, and about 90 per cent of all precipitation seeps down into the rock and is again filtered before entering the lake

But Lake Baikal is now the centre of a rapidly expanding industrial zone, where the growing exploitation of minerals and timber has brought a burgeoning population. A new trans-Siberian railway is being built close to the northern shore and extensive damage has been caused by the burning of forests, pollution of streams, and destruction of grass cover.

This damage is especially serious because of the delicate ecological balance in the extreme Siberian climate. If a tree only six inches in diameter is destroyed, it takes between 150 and 170 years to grow another of the same size. The area's rivers have only a tenth of the self-purifying capacity of the Volga or Don.

Ten years ago the Soviet Government passed laws to protect the lake's basin. Three years ago further restrictions were laid on the big pulp and cardboard works, the main source of pollution of the lake. Industrial effluents had to be demineralized or converted to non-toxic substances, and by 1985 the factories were to change over to a closed water-supply system.

However, last year *Pravda* said violations by the paper mills were more frequent than ever, and the local city of Slyudyanka discharged poorly treated sewage into the lake and increased shipping brought oil and pollution.

Other factories were still pouring toxic substances into the rivers that flowed into lake Baikal, and rafts of two million cubic metres of timber a year passing down the lake left behind hundreds of tons of organic compounds.

New petrol storage depots, originally temporary, have now been made permanent, despite a decree in 1966 that no new industrial plants should be built near the lake.

Munich squatters being evicted from an uninhabited house by police on Sunday night.

Battle begins for control of W Berlin

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, March 16

What promises to be a mighty battle for political power in West Berlin opened officially today as the city's House of Representatives voted to dissolve the legislature two years before time.

The unanimous vote formally cleared the way for the elections on May 10, which were brought on by a political crisis caused by a building scandal involving *ruling politicians*.

The House will still meet occasionally on a caretaker basis to adopt federal West German laws, which do not automatically apply to West Berlin, and to debate a report by the committee investigating the scandal.

West Germany's political parties are preparing to pull out all the stops during the two-month campaign, because the outcome of the elections—which is far from certain—is of critical importance to the federal Government.

If the Social Democrats and Free Democrats are toppled after 35 years of almost uninterrupted power, it will be seen as the beginning of the end for the trouble-ridden Social Democrat-Free Democrat coalition in Bonn.

Herr Eberhard Diepgen, the opposition Christian Democrat floor leader in the House of Representatives, called today for a "democratic change" after the scandals and malpractices of recent years.

Herr Alexander Longolius, his Social Democrat counterpart, retorted that the change had already taken place with the arrival of Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel. The former federal Justice Minister, to take over as Chief Burgomaster.

Herr Vogel, considered the most likely successor to Herr Helmut Schmidt as Chancellor, was sent to Berlin in a desperate attempt to clean up the city Government and avert defeat at the elections.

A group of young people who interrupted the session today by shouting demands for the release of jailed squatters were a reminder of a potentially explosive situation which could affect the elections. With more than 100 buildings occupied by squatters, and an estimated 10,000-12,000 sympathizers prepared to take to the streets, West Berlin has become the capital of West Germany's squatting problem.

Clown back in race for presidency

From Ian Murray
Paris, March 16

Egg, or it may have been custard pie, was smeared all over the collective face of the Paris press corps in the Théâtre du Gymnase this afternoon by a clown. Contrary to what most of the journalists present—including your correspondent—had been saying, M Michel Colucci, alias Coluche, is definitely not withdrawing from the presidential campaign.

His eyes twinkled *mischievously* behind his little round glasses as he made the announcement to a near-packed house. He had caught the press, at least figuratively, with its trousers down and he obviously enjoyed the joke.

Unusually for the press in France, journalists had arrived in time for the press conference announced by Coluche to explain the reasons why he was quitting the campaign. When the red velvet curtain rose, there he sat at a plain wooden table covered in microphones, with just enough space for a pizza, a plate of spaghetti, a banana and a bottle of mineral water. His mouth was full.

Waving a pizza-laden fork he confessed that he had lied. "I said yesterday that I would stop. In fact I commence; but this is the only method that I have found in order to stop the ban of which I am the object on radio and television."

He explained why he was eating. This was because he wanted everyone to see him enjoy his last meal before he began a hunger strike. He would not eat again until he was invited to appear on the main political radio and television programmes.

President Dacko takes lead in Bangui poll

Bangui, March 16.—President David Dacko held a narrow lead today in the Central African Republic's presidential election, according to first results from the capital.

With about 60 per cent of the votes counted in Bangui after yesterday's ballot, he had won 45 per cent compared to 41 per cent for Mr Ange Patasse of the Liberation Movement for the Central African People, his nearest challenger.

It was the country's first election since 1964 and came 18 months after the coup which ousted self-proclaimed Emperor Jean-Bedel Bokassa.

President Dacko, who was favourite to win the election against four other candidates, said the security forces were ordered to "crush any attempt to disrupt the democratic process" —Reuter.

Man in the News

Louis Heren

Overlord at pirates' oriental lair

Sir Murray MacLehose, who has announced that he will not serve a further term as Governor of Hongkong, is the last of the great proconsuls. Other men governed larger and grander overseas territories, but none succeeded in reversing the tide of history.

From India to Fiji, viceroys, governors and high commissioners were appointed to preside over the dissolution of the British Empire, but since 1971 Sir Murray has helped to transform Hongkong from an entrepôt for foreign trade with the China coast to a manufacturing centre ranking among the world's top 20 exporters.

No less noteworthy, the Colony's future has been secured for the foreseeable future. Peking is content to leave this capitalist island in a communist sea to pursue the quick buck.

Indeed, it has joined in the pursuit with an enthusiasm which would have surprised Marx, Lenin and Stalin. Obviously the Chinese Government has good reason to permit the Union Jack to fly over what it regards as Chinese territory, but Sir Murray MacLehose made possible this odd, but mutually profitable, arrangement.

His diplomatic training and experience explain his repeated successes, which culminated in his official visit to the Chinese capital in 1979. His foreign postings included Hankow, Prague, Wellington, Paris, Saigon and Copenhagen, as well as a spell as political adviser in Hongkong, but they do not explain his success as a colonial administrator.

Labour politicians visiting the Colony have complained about the absence of democratic government, apparently unaware that Peking would not tolerate a third Chinese government. Others have condemned corruption, vice and other excesses.

All this is true. Hongkong is the modern equivalent of a pirate's lair, which is why it is exuberantly alive, but Sir Murray and his expatriate officers have created one of the most enlightened colonial administrations in history.

Public housing, health and education have steadily improved, as have legislation and social services to prevent exploitation and abuse.

It has not been easy. Since 1946 the population has grown from 600,000 to nearly five million. Illegal immigration from the mainland was mainly responsible, but Hongkong also attracted the "boat people" fleeing from Vietnam.

Corruption was endemic and efforts to reduce it nearly brought about a police mutiny. For one grim moment, a breakdown in law and order seemed inevitable, but Hongkong survived largely because of that shrewd man in Government House and his lieutenants.

One reason was that the Governor knew that he was not running a new town in the Home Counties, that Hongkong would always be a pirates' lair attracting adventurers and crooks as well as capital. Another was that he enjoyed life and Hongkong immensely.

I find it hard to believe that at the age of 63 he will be content to return to farming in Scotland, or that Hongkong will see his like again.

That said, Sir Jack Cater, who has been appointed Hongkong Commissioner in London, and Sir Philip Haddon-Cave, the Chief Secretary, are also old China hands. Each of them would be a worthy successor, although presumably someone in the Diplomatic Service also sees himself as another of the last proconsuls.

Amnesty hopes scotched

From Our Correspondent
Hongkong, March 16

Hongkong's Secretary for Information, Mr Alan Scott, has ridiculed reports prevalent among Chinese in Canton that the Queen will grant a limited amnesty for illegal Chinese entrants to Hongkong to mark the marriage of the Prince of Wales to Lady Diana Spencer.

Sir Jack Carter, Chief Secretary, visited Canton last week to discuss tighter cooperation in the prevention of illegal immigration across the border. Apparently his visit strengthened the amnesty rumour which many potential illegal immigrants have been believing and circulating.

Hundreds suffer at hands of Syrian police

Continued from page 1

said, 11 local men had been arrested by the police in Hama and taken down to the banks of the Orontes River just outside the city where they were machine-gunned to death, apparently in retaliation for the murder of a police official. When a Baathist youth leader was assassinated and his official chauffeur wounded last month, the police had killed 18 local people in revenge, according to the Hama refugees.

Another man described how he saw a police arrest operation nine months ago. "I could see what happened from a window", he said. "The secret police had lined up hundreds of young men against a wall near the centre of the city. They were whipping them with wire coated in black plastic and there were men on the ground with their legs broken. They were being kicked and they were screaming.

"Why didn't anyone report that these things happened? There are thousands of Hama people in prison now. Why doesn't Amnesty say something or do something to help?"

The Hama residents here said that posters printed by the Muslim Brothers used to appear in mosques in the city but that they have seen none in the months before they left. They said that the authorities were particularly suspicious of doctors because one of the first assassinations in the city had been carried out by two doctors who were brothers. They had both been killed subsequently in a gun battle but since then five other doctors had been murdered by the police, the residents claimed. Eight doctors had left Hama in fear of their lives together with "thousands" of ordinary people who had fled to West Germany and the United States.

They spoke consistently of three initial periods of mass arrests between Easter and August last year and said these were followed by shootings and murders by the police on an average of once every two days.

Families of suspects were singled out for official retribution, he said. On four occasions, when the Special Forces had trapped suspects in their homes and they refused to surrender, the paramilitary force had destroyed the houses with rocket-propelled grenades.

Several of the Hama residents referred to a Syrian Special Forces colonel who had commanded the paramilitary police in the city during some of the past nine months. He had a brutal reputation, they said, and was promoted in January and sent to command a Special Forces unit in Beirut. Here, they said, he was assassinated by Hama people together with four other members of the Syrian security police.

From the accounts given here, the Syrian regular Army appears to have been uninvolved in the events in Hama.

Pakistani prisoners mainly Bhutto men

From Hasan Akhtar
Islamabad, March 16

The Pakistani Government today released the names of 27 of the 54 political prisoners swapped yesterday for the hostages on the Pakistani airliner at Damascus airport. The list indicated that most of those released belonged to the Pakistan People's Party of Mr Bhutto, the executed Prime Minister.

The most important of the released prisoners was Dr Ghulam Husain, who was secretary-general of the People's Party until it was dissolved by the martial-law regime in October, 1979.

It is expected that a list of the remaining 27 prisoners will be issued by the Government tomorrow. Newspapers in Pakistan have been supplied by the Government with photographs of the released prisoners and brief accounts of the charges on which they were held or convicted. According to the list, a number were members of students' organizations and the Sindhi Freedom Movement, and were held on general charges of working against the Government

Also among the prisoners was Mr Munir Ahmad Warraich, a former naval officer who served in the Pakistani Foreign Office under Mr Bhutto's rule. Mr Warraich was arrested in September last year, convicted by a general court-martial earlier this month, and sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment. The charges against him were not officially stated but he was believed to be involved in alleged arms smuggling.

According to the official list, seven were being tried for their part in firing on an anti-Bhutto rally in Rawalpindi about eight years ago resulting in about a dozen deaths, 21 were charged with sabotage and arms smuggling, five were held on charges of murder, two for alleged espionage and conspiracy against the state, and eight for causing disaffection against the Government in the armed forces. Eight were charged for clandestine printing of what was described by the Government as subversive literature, while three were detained for unspecified unlawful activity.

The first list of 27 prisoners was released today after yesterday's broadcast by President Zia ul-Haq that he would expose the men involved in what he called a conspiracy against Pakistan.

Hostages bound for Mecca

Bahrain, March 16.—More than 100 Pakistanis held for 13 days on the hijacked Pakistani airliner arrived in Saudi Arabia from Damascus today to offer special prayers at Mecca, seat of the Islamic faith.

They had routine medical examinations at a hospital on arrival at Taif, Saudi Arabia's summer resort city, and then were driven to a luxury hotel and treated to a lavish meal, Pakistani officials said.

The Pakistanis, including the crew of the hijacked Pakistan International Airlines Boeing 720, were released in Damascus after the three hijackers surrendered to Syrian authorities and an aircraft carrying 54 prisoners from Pakistan touched down in the Syrian capital.

The pilot and crew of the Boeing, which was hijacked on March 2 during an internal Pakistan flight, flew the passengers to Taif.

The Pakistani officials said the passengers were guests of the Saudi Government, which has also undertaken to fly them to Mecca and Medina in Saudi aircraft.—Reuter.

Uncertain fate: The three hijackers and the 54 prisoners freed by the Pakistani Government remain in Syrian custody. The prisoners were being held in the airport hotel and the hijackers at an undisclosed location. There is still no clear idea of what will happen to the hijackers, or the prisoners. Syria has yet to grant them asylum (UPI reports from Damascus).

Arab anger at latest West Bank land grab

From Christopher Walker
Anabta, March 16

The Israeli Government's rush to construct new Jewish settlements in advance of the June general election has run into violence and fierce legal controversy on a rocky Samarian hillside outside this occupied West Bank town.

Mukhtars from three neighbouring Arab villages claim to have been informed by an Israeli officer on March 8 that about 400 acres in the area was being declared "state land" and taken over by the military Government. Any Arab with a claim to ownership was given 21 days to present his case to a military appeals committee.

According to villagers, two days after the announcement, an Israeli bulldozer arrived to start digging a long access road to the remote site of the proposed settlement, one of seven on which work commenced last week.

Already the new dirt road is over 700 yards long, running directly through fields planted with almond and olive trees, and divided by a number of old stone walls apparently demarcating local ownership. With two other reporters, I was able to inspect the site today while Israeli officials with pistols in their belts worked around us with surveying posts.

"What is the point of giving us three weeks to appeal about certain of our lands, when they have already started work on a road to the site which we are appealing about", asked one local Arab municipal official. "Can they believe that we imagine that they are building this road to nowhere?"

The military Government claims there is a distinction between the land being used to build the access road to the new settlement, Shavei-Shomron B, and the land on which the houses will be constructed.

Because the road is listed as a "public need" the land on which it is being built is confiscated, with compensation offered and no right of appeal. The land earmarked for the settlement proper, which is intended to house more than 30 Jewish families by June, is claimed as state land, leaving the opportunity of appeal.

Incensed by the construction of the road prior to the appeal hearing, local Palestinians have already stoned the Israeli construction workers and attempted to stop the work by lying under the bulldozers.

A protest march of 300 landowners and Arab villagers at the weekend was forcefully broken up by Israeli troops and all local Palestinians have been barred from the site by military order. Some farmers claim angrily that this prevents them looking after their crops.

Community praises Spain

From Our Correspondent
Brussels, March 16

Welcoming the "firm and energetic response" of the Spanish Government and people to last month's attempted coup, EEC Foreign Ministers announced here today that they intend to "intensify" negotiations with Spain on its application to join the Community.

This assurance was given after talks with Señor José Pedro Péres Lloroa, the Spanish Foreign Minister, who appealed for a more "dynamic" approach to the negotiations and "a renewal of faith in the future of Spain".

Señor Péres Lloroa said that the observance by Spanish public opinion of real progress in the entry negotiations in the coming months would be a positive factor for the stability of democracy in Spain.

The negotiations have become difficult because of the problem of integrating Spanish agriculture. The French have argued that there can be no agreement on Spain's entry terms until the EEC's internal reforms have been completed.

Strike called off after Polish officials resign

Radom, March 16. — Free trade union leaders in this Polish industrial city have called off a two-hour regional strike set for Wednesday, the state radio said tonight.

The radio quoted the local Solidarity leader Mr Andrzej Sobieraj, as saying the decision had been taken "in view of the partial fulfilment of our demands by the authorities".

The Solidarity national leader, Mr Lech Walesa, had earlier appealed to workers in Radom not to strike, saying he was confident that the Government would send a delegation to negotiate their demands.

The official news agency PAP said tonight that Mr Zdzislaw Kwiecinski had been elected first secretary of the Communist party in Radom to replace Mr Janusz Prokopiak, one of three local officials whose removal Solidarity had sought. It said Mr Prokopiak had offered his resignation so as not to be a source of local conflict.

The Governor of Radom has also resigned and union officials said tonight they were waiting for the local police chief to go.

Impromptu Khomeini talks fail to end Iran political dispute

Tehran, March 16.—Ayatollah Khomeini, the Iranian leader, is to set up a three-man reconciliation committee and ban public speeches by political leaders.

In a statement read over national television, the ayatollah avoided taking sides in the dispute between President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr and the dominant Muslim fundamentalist Islamic Republican Party, which started with factional violence at a mass rally addressed by the President.

He said all Iran's main public figures and bodies were legally in office and that it was forbidden to insult or weaken them; but he reminded them that they were subject to the constitution and that they could face public exposure and trial if they did not obey it.—Reuter.

Referring to recent violence, Ayatollah Khomeini said: "Since during speeches by the President, the Prime Minister, the head of the Supreme Court and the Speaker of the *Majlis* (Parliament), deviated groups have created disturbances, it will be better if they give no more speeches until the end of the war. Interviews are, however, not forbidden."

His statement also authorized the three-man committee to study newspapers, and if any two of them found a newspaper objectionable, to denounce it to the judicial authorities. Newspapers supporting the rival groups had recently carried articles and denunciations that may have increased tensions.

Bitter rivalry: Mr Mehdi Bazargan, the former moderate Prime Minister whose only official position at present is that of parliamentary deputy, was surprisingly included in the talks, (Tony Allaway writes).

He appears to be lined up behind President Bani-Sadr, who also attended.

With them were the Islamic fundamentalists, their bitter political rivals, the Prime Minister, the Chief Justice, the parliamentary speaker, and a religious leader.

Also in the talks was Hojatoleslam Ahmad Khomeini, the ayatollah's son, who has increasingly supported the President recently.

Political observers, who had been extremely puzzled by the ayatollah's public silence on the controversy, now suggest that he has become tired of his customary routine of delivering judgment from on high


Bath-time distress in a refugee camp in San Salvador.

Christian Aid urges EEC to resist US pressure over El Salvador

By Jacob Ecclestone

Dr Kenneth Slack, the director of Christian Aid, yesterday appealed to EEC foreign ministers, who meet in Brussels today, to resist American pressure and to provide food and money for civil war victims in El Salvador. "There is quite appalling human need, and we ought to do all we can to meet that need", he said.

Speaking in London on his return from a three-week tour of Central America and Brazil, Dr Slack said the war was "an uprising against the intolerable—an intolerable situation that has gone on for a very long time". Christians in El Salvador, he said, had made it clear that the guerrillas fighting the American-backed Government were not merely terrorists.

Christian Aid reported that it had given nearly £150,000 in relief aid over the past 14 months, and that a special fund had raised £40,000 for El Salvador in the past two months. The money was given to an ecumenical organization in El Salvador and used to feed thousands of people displaced by the war, many of them widows and orphans.

In addition to a brief visit to El Salvador—restricted because of the rigid local curfew and "the personal danger to our colleagues there" — Dr Slack and Mr George Gelber, Christian Aid's project officer for Latin America, had talks with Christians in Nicaragua, Guatemala and South America.

Many of those he met in Guatemala, he said, talked in terms of that country becoming the next El Salvador. "The illiberality of the regime is bound to lead to an increase in guerrilla activity", he reported.

Commenting on American opposition to the continued supply of emergency relief aid, Dr Slack said Christians in El Salvador regretted President Reagan's attitude because it would buttress the Government.

To stop giving aid now would be to pander to the Reagan Administration's inability to recognize that Christian witnesses of total integrity testified to the fact that the ordinary people of El Salvador faced greater terror from government forces than from anyone else, he said.

Commenting on his visit to Nicaragua, where he had discussions with leaders of the Sandinista Front, Dr Slack said it was clear there was a strong desire to benefit from the Christian presence in the revolutionary Government.

Election plea: A Roman Catholic clergyman said on Sunday that a negotiated solution to El Salvador's political violence was still possible and urged the Government to carry out a promise to hold elections in 1982.

Father Manuel Torruella, celebrating Mass in place of the acting Archbishop, Mgr Arturo Rivera y Damas, at the central cathedral in the capital, said a "just, political option" was still possible.

He said that despite public distrust, the ruling junta should push ahead with its plans for holding democratic elections in 1982.

At least 58 people died in political violence at the weekend.—UPI.


Dr Slack: 'Appalling need'.

Viola visit marks human rights change

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, March 16

General Roberto Viola, the President-designate of Argentina, is in Washington on an official visit in what is seen as a demonstration of the change in the American approach to human rights in South America. The Reagan Administration's perspective differs sharply from that of Mr Carter.

This is the first visit of an Argentine head of state—or designated head of state—since President Frondizi came here in 1961, apart from President Videla's brief appearance at the time of the Panama Canal treaties in 1978.

On that occasion the leaders of a great number of South American republics came to Washington to pay brief courtesy calls on President Carter.

The visit of General Viola, who succeeds President Videla on March 29, is much more substantial. He is seeing Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State this afternoon and will meet President Reagan tomorrow afternoon.

Argentina, according to the State Department, has one of the worst human rights records on the South American continent. The military Government repressed civil disorder and left-wing terrorism with extreme ruthlessness.

The State Department publishes annual lists of the state of human rights in various countries—a practice which will probably stop.

President Reagan and Mr Haig have said repeatedly that supressing international terrorism is the most effective contribution the United States and its friends and allies can make to furthering the cause of human rights.

They have already suspended the sanctions invoked against Chile after the murder here of Señor Orlando Letelier, an opposition leader.

Kissinger view: Dr Henry Kissinger, the former United States Secretary of State, yesterday said the fighting in El Salvador was not comparable to that in Vietnam in the 1970s.

"The guerrilla movement is not nearly so far advanced as in Vietnam. Vietnam has 10 times the population of El Salvador and El Salvador lacks a powerful neighbour like China to supply arms," he said at San Juan airport, Puerto Rico.—UPI.

Unifil men killed in shelling of village

From Our Own Correspondent
Beirut, March 16

In one of the most serious attacks on United Nations troops in Lebanon since they first arrived in the country three years ago, Israeli-backed Lebanese militiamen today shelled the village of Kantara, killing two United Nations soldiers and wounding 11 others.

The bombardment, which lasted an hour and came without any warning, was centred on the United Nation's Nigerian battalion area and all the United Nations soldiers were Nigerian. Two regular Lebanese soldiers—part of a force of 30 sent from Beirut last week—were also wounded.

Soon afterwards, Major Saad Haddad's milicia also shelled the Dutch battalion area, firing projectiles around the village of Yater, but the Dutch reported no casualties.

There was no reason given by Major Haddad for these assaults—he usually announces the purpose of his bombardments over his Country and Western radio station—"The Voice of Hope", but it seems certain he was trying to discourage the Lebanese Government from sending more regular troops to southern Lebanon.

Although the Lebanese decision to place troops within the United Nation's area of control in the south has received American support, Major Haddad has consistently opposed this policy. When the first regular soldiers moved south in 1978, Major Haddad's men shelled them. The shells are furnished by the major's Israeli suppliers and are of American manufacture.

Israeli dies: An Israeli officer was killed in south Lebanon today dismantling a booby-trapped object, the military command announced here. It said Israeli sappers crossed the border this morning, in response to a request by the Lebanese.

Formidable Irishman has task of restoring UN morale in south Lebanon

From Robert Fisk
Kana, Southern Lebanon
March 16

The first thing you notice about Major-General William Callaghan is his extraordinary face. It looks a little like a skull, with two penetrating eyes above two high, massive cheekbones that stretch his skin taut.

The effect is only slightly ameliorated by the giant, bear-like ears on each side of his head. With his ponderous stride and gleaming blackthorn stick, he looks a formidable man. As the new commander of the 6,000 United Nations troops in southern Lebanon, he needs to be just that.

He likes the no-nonsense approach "Now let me tell you something", he began gruffly. "If you are going to be as pessimistic now as you were in your series of United Nations articles in *The Times* last year, I'm not going to do this interview." Then he rather spoilt the effect by asking: "I haven't upset you by saying that, have I?"

Without getting any promise of optimism he waited for the first question. He knows that people expect a lot from him because the morale of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (Unifil) has been steadily declining in recent months and United Nations officials have been talking rashly about the tough new Irish general who is going to get things moving in southern Lebanon.

General Callagham is Irish, all right—his Cork accent cuts through every word he says—but is he really all that forceful a figure? "Judgments are for people," he said. "I'm quite clear who I am. Generals are not unlike women who purchase style—they like it to be admired when worn rather than seen beforehand in the wardrobe. I believe in good professional soldiering."

He looked up to see if the metaphor had been appreciated—he had clearly used it many times before. Indeed, General Callaghan has had plenty of experience as an international *soldier. He* was a *company* commander in the Irish United Nations battalion in the Congo in 1961, served *three* tours of duty with the United Nations in Cyprus, and was Acting Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization on the Israeli-Syrian border in 1978.

He has been in Lebanon long enough to know Unifil's problems, although he remains deceptively mild about them—for the present. "Our main problem," he said, "is lack of cooperation by the participating parties across the board, with the exception of the Lebanese Government."

By "participating parties", he means the Israeli-backed army of Major Saad Haddad, the Israelis themselves, and the Palestinian leftist militias. "I'm talking about cooperation on a specific day-to-day level," General Callaghan said.

That last phrase was as far as General Callaghan wanted to go in blaming the Israelis for Unifil's predicament. Like a newly appointed headmaster, he seemed anxious to let the more unruly boys know that he had his eye on them without actually naming names.

But he was equally reticent about the notion that Unifil's peace-keeping mandate should be turned into a peace-enforcement role and that the United Nations troops should use strong-arm methods to extend their control of southern Lebanon down to the Israeli frontier. Peace enforcement, he said, necessitated a "disposition to casualties" by the countries sending soldiers to Unifil; it was clearly an area into which he did not wish to delve too deeply.

What did he have in mind to strengthen Unifil's hand, I asked? He lent across the table, the skin tight over those intimidating cheekbones, and rapped out: "Just you wait and see."

Cancellation of opposition rally raises new problems for US policy

Sandinista tactics stir fears of totalitarianism

From Michael Leapman
New York, March 16

An opposition political rally in Nicaragua was cancelled yesterday after supporters of the ruling Sandinista Front had burnt down the house of the party leader. The incident will encourage fears that the country is moving towards a totalitarian socialist regime and adds a further complication to United States policy in central America.

The rally had been planned to mark the first anniversary of the formation of the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement by Señor Alfonso Robelo, formerly a member of the junta which took power after the Sandinistas ousted General Somoza in July 1979. Señor Robelo later formed his own party because of his worry about the junta's drift to the left.

After some hesitation, the junta had given permission for yesterday's rally. But Sandinista supporters took the law into their own hands by burning Señor Robelo's house, destroying three radio stations which supported him, and blocking roads to Nandaime, the town where the rally was to be held, 50 miles from Managua, the capital.

Señor Robelo called it "a night of terror" and cancelled the rally. He added: "Pluralism has become a hollow word with no reality. We find ourselves before a new dictatorship that has no compunction about using the stones and clubs of the manipulated poor."

Pluralism has been the word used to denote the variety of political views in the junta. Conservatives and moderate businessmen have been worried in recent months that hard-line leftists, encouraged by Cuba, were moving towards a complete takeover.

Earlier this month the five-man junta, containing two moderates, was reduced to three, with only one moderate remaining. Dr Arturo Cruz, regarded by many businessmen as the chief guardian of moderation, left the junta and has been appointed ambassador to Washington.

La Prensa, the country's largest newspaper, which has opposed the drift to the left, suspended publication temporarily after weekend demonstrations outside its office by Sandinista supporters. It is edited by Señor Pedro Chamorro, the son of the former editor, murdered for his opposition to Somoza.

The new signs of a squeeze of the right will complicate America's decision on whether to resume aid to Nicaragua, suspended because of the help the Government has given in supplying arms to the guerrillas in El Salvador. The country is in a parlous economic plight, with a balance of payments deficit of $200m (about £90.4m) and the prospect of being unable to pick part of its cotton crop this year because regional instability has prevented the usual immigrant pickers from El Salvador and Honduras from coming.

Without American help, the country may be forced into the arms of Cuba, which already has 4,000 advisers there. The only leverage the Americans could then apply would be to give clandestine assistance to the Somozist guerrillas who make raids across the border from Honduras.

MEPs react to protests on spending

Strasbourg, March 16.—In the mounting campaign against overspending by the European Parliament, Signor Marco Pannella, an Italian member, has produced figures showing expensive receptions and extravagant accommodation costs.

Signor Pannella's campaign, which he says he will follow up with advertisements in newspapers published in community countries, paid for out of his £45,000 annual salary, has provoked a flurry of activity

The 17-member executive bureau of the Parliament announced this week that parliamentary delegations would travel together on charter flights in future, instead of flying individually and first class. They would confine themselves to visiting capital cities, and would not move about as tourists.

Parliamentary delegations which have recently visited Sierra Leone, Colombia and Australia have called press conferences to explain their spending, and a delegation leaving for South-East Asia next month has cut down its itinerary.

According to figures produced by signor Pannella, the Parliament spends about £6.45m a year on rent for its buildings, £204,000 a year on receptions, £227,000 on hiring cars for its members and more than £454,000 on cleaning its premises.

Delegations themselves argue that their size and expense are justified by the importance of their work. "We do not dispute Signor Panella's figures" a parliamentary spokesman said, "but we believe that it is necessary to maintain our contacts with countries which have important agreements with the EEC.

Signor Panella has singled out the Parliament's relations with the 60 African, Caribbean and Pacific nations linked in a trade and aid agreement with the EEC. He noted that when their meetings were held in Luxembourg or Brussels, attendance was paltry, but members thronged to attend meetings in the overseas countries.
—Reuter.

In brief

Mauritania coup attempt fails

Algiers, March 16.—The military Government in Mauritania said today it had defeated an attempted coup organized by Morocco. One leader of the abortive coup was killed and another captured. Both were Mauritanian opposition leaders living in exile.

Mr Sid Ahmed Ould B'Neijara, the Prime Minister, said in a broadcast monitored in Dakar that a suicide commando attacked the Government and presidential headquarters this afternoon. Six other people were killed.—Reuter.

MPs get to grips in Kashmir Assembly

Delhi, March 16.—A fist-fight broke out between members of the Opposition and Treasury benches in the Legislative Assembly in Kashmir today.

The fighting followed heated exchanges between the two *sides after the Speaker*, the Assembly President, refused to admit opposition motions seeking to censure the Government of Shaikh Muhammad Abdullah. No one was seriously hurt.—Agence France-Presse.

Iranian jet hijacked

Ankara, March 16. — An Iranian Air Force C130 transport aircraft was hijacked today by a military officer seeking political asylum in Turkey, Ankara authorities said. The officer was only identified as a group captain. There were 12 people on board the aircraft, which was diverted to Turkey.

Egypt backs rebels

Cairo, March 16.—Egypt tonight officially confirmed for the first time that it was supplying arms to rebel forces in the Chad civil war. Asked for details of the Egyptian supplies, the Foreign Ministry said it was not prepared to "tell secrets".

Islanders sue US

Washington, March 16.—The people of Bikini, the Pacific atoll evacuated in 1946 to make way for United States nuclear tests, sued the United States today for $450m (£203m). They claimed that Bikini was taken over unlawfully.

Seal death protest

Ottawa, March 16.—About 200 chanting protesters from Europe and North America marched by torchlight to Canada's Parliament last night to demand an end to the killing of seal pups off Newfoundland.

Census in Sri Lanka

Colombo, March 16.—Sri Lankans were told today to tie up their dogs, stay awake and remain indoors tomorrow night so that 70,000 census enumerators can count them and their homes.

Surinam plot foiled

Paramaribo, March 16.—The Surinam Government said today it had foiled an attempted coup yesterday and that an army sergeant who led the plotters had been killed.

Famous names likely to appear in actress's case against tabloid

From Ivor Davis
Los Angeles, March 16

Five years ago the *National Enquirer*, a racy weekly tabloid that sells millions of copies in supermarkets across America, carried a gossip item about one of the country's most popular entertainers, Miss Carol Burnett, the comedy actress.

The article said that a "boisterous Burnett" had a "loud" argument with Dr Henry Kissinger, the former Secretary of State, at a fashionable Washington restaurant, later "traipsing" around the place, spilling wine on another diner.

"Not true. A complete fabrication", declared Miss Burnett, who said she had denied such an incident took place even before the newspaper printed it.

A month later the newspaper published a retraction; but this week Miss Burnett took her seat in the front row of a Los Angeles court and prepared to testify in a $10m (£4.5m) libel case she has brought against the Florida-based publication.

A number of famous personalities, including Dr Kissinger, are expected to be called as witnesses. In the Hollywood film community the trial is also being closely watched by several other celebrities who have libel suits pending against the *National Enquirer*, a newspaper which has built an impressive circulation (four million sold, but a "pass on" readership of 18 million) by running salacious stories purporting to be the inside truths about celebrities' private lives.

Those with suits pending include Linda Blatty, wife of best-selling author William Peter Blatty; Rory Calhoun, an actor; Marty Ingels, an agent, and his actress wife, Shirley Jones; Phil Silvers, a comedian; Rudy Vallee, a former husband of Jane Powell; and Dr Max Shapiro, a former dentist of Elvis Presley.

Never before has the *National Enquirer* been taken to court in a libel issue. In previous cases there have been settlements out of court.

Miss Burnett, realizing she is something of a banner carrier for her celebrity colleagues, says she is determined to go through with the case.

Commenting about the newspaper's retraction, she said: "It is tantamount to being struck by a hit-and-run driver. You are in the hospital and they send you a bouquet of crabgrass."

Her suit, seeking $5m punitive damages and $5m general damages, claims that the newspaper had maliciously and knowingly published false information that subjected her to "great upset, shock, mental suffering, emotional distress, shame, humiliation and embarrassment".

The suit argues that the wording of the item give the impression that Miss Burnett was drunk at the time.

The *National Enquirer's* lawyers have said a retraction was published. The trial by jury is expected to last about three weeks.


Carol Burnett: "Not true". Dr Kissinger: Likely witness

Israel told it is falling behind in arms race

From Moshe Brilliant
Tel Aviv, March 16

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Foreign Minister, told the Knesset today that Israel was unable to keep pace with the accelerated Middle East arms race which, he said, must lead inexorably to a devastating war.

In strong terms, the usually soft-spoken minister, denounced the stream of arms to the region from the United States, the Soviet Union and Europe and claimed that Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Libya were already better armed today than the Nato countries.

He dismissed the United States' proposal to offset the damage by supplying military aid to Israel under special terms. "This is no solution", he said. "The state of Israel will not be able to stand the strain, if only economically."

Mr Shamir also challenged the American assessment that Saudi Arabia was moderate, pointing out that it had participated in all the wars against Israel, orchestrated the recent call for a *Jihad* (holy war), and had financed Palestinian terrorists.

Mr Shamir said the Reagan Administration was violating pledges to Congress by the previous Administration in selling the Saudis extra equipment for their F15 aircraft, the most sophisticated fighters in the American arsenal, to enable them to be used against Israel.

Reporting on his meetings with officials of the Reagan Administration during his recent mission to Washington, Mr Shamir said he had found friendship and understanding but that they had been upset by the supply of the offensive parts for the F15s as well as the proposed supply of AWACS (warning and control system) aircraft.

Israelis, who had appeared to have adjusted to the American decision about the F15s, appeared deeply troubled by later reports that the Saudis will also get four AWACS aircraft.

Man shot trying to cross Wall into East Berlin

From Our Own Correspondent
Bonn, March 16

East German border guards today shot a man who climbed the Berlin Wall—heading from West to East. It is not known if he was killed.

The incident was unique in the 20-year history of the wall. Anyone who wants to enter East Berlin can simply walk to one of the crossing-points or take the railway.

A few drunks or mentally deranged people have crossed the fortifications from west to east in the past without being hurt.

West Berlin police said the man, aged about 40, climbed the high concrete wall and ran 50 yards across the heavily guarded "death strip". He was about to climb a fence when East German guards fired a warning shot and ordered him to stop.

Then two more shots rang out and the man fell to the ground.

Gunman takes girl hostage in Moscow flats siege

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, March 16

An elderly Russian armed with a gun seized a small girl hostage this morning in a block of flats in Central Moscow and shot and wounded two people before police seized him.

The incident, lasting three hours, took place in a block mainly inhabited by foreigners a few miles north from the Kremlin on Prospekt Mira (Peace Avenue). Eye-witnesses said the whole area was immediately sealed off while police marksmen were brought in and ambulances and jeeps parked near by.

According to a correspondent living in the block, the man barricaded himself and the girl in the building and shot and wounded a man who appeared to be the girl's father when he tried to approach.

The police ordered foreign diplomats and businessmen to stay indoors. Eventually a teargas grenade was fired into the flat, police in flak-jackets stormed in, and the man was led away, apparently unhurt.

Foreign television cameramen were prevented from taking pictures, and the police refused to comment beyond saying the man was "deranged". The motive appears to have been a family quarrel rather than political.

Violent incidents of this kind are not unknown in Moscow. Three years ago an armed man broke into the offices of Finnair, the Finnish airline, in central Moscow and held employees hostage for several hours, demanding that he be flown out of the country. He was eventually seized after teargas grenades had been fired through broken windows.

In 1979 a man stormed into the United States Embassy and threatened to blow himself up with a bomb strapped to his waist unless he was allowed to emigrate. He was shot and killed by Soviet police, invited in by the ambassador.

A few months later another man armed with a shotgun fired shots in the embassy compound before being overpowered. Last autumn a man shot and killed two people outside a diplomatic block and hid in the compound before being caught.

The Russians rarely comment on such incidents, saying only that they are the work of criminals or madmen. But the police are well prepared and a detachment of what appear to be trained marksmen and anti-terrorist personnel usually arrive together with armed militia and plain-clothes KGB.

Saskatchewan minister for Whitehall talks

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Making the first of what he expects will be a series of direct approaches to the British Government and Parliament by the Canadian provinces opposed to Mr Pierre Trudeau's constitional proposals, Mr Roy Romanow, Deputy Premier and Minister of Inter-governmental Affairs in Saskatchewan, will put his Government's objections to Mr Nicholas Ridley, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, tomorrow.

It is the first formal meeting between a representative of a provincial Government and the British Government over the constitutional package which the Canadian federal Government will send to London for endorsement by Parliament in early April. Usually relations between Canada and the United Kingdom are conducted through the Canadian High Commission.

It is expected that many more dissenting provincial governments will make direct representations. Mr Romanow will also see Mr Denis Healey, the shadow Foreign Secretary and deputy leader of the Labour Party, and Mr Denzil Davies, MP for Llanelli, another front-bench spokesman who is dealing with the expected Canadian request.

Last-minute doubt over Spanish divorce Bill

From Richard Wigg
Madrid, March 16

Months of effort by Señor Francisco Fernández Ordóñez, the Justice Minister, to give Spain a divorce law like other West European countries, will reach a decisive stage tomorrow when the Bill goes before Parliament for approval.

But 24 hours before, the ruling Centre Democratic Union (UCD) was still arguing whether to permit divorce by mutual consent. Its leaders had been obliged to go back on a draft permitting it, agreed in the committee stage, after an anti-divorce campaign by the Roman Catholic Church.

The battle between the progressives and the traditionalists is seriously troubling the country and the Government, only weeks after an abortive military coup and at a time when Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, the Prime Minister, wishes above all to reassert the Government's authority.

The divisions within the UCD obliged Señor Calvo Sotelo to restrict himself to expressing personal approval for the Divorce Bill favoured by the Justice Minister, who comes from the party's Social Democratic wing. But in an effort not to split the UCD, the Prime Minister emphasized that the parliamentary party would take the final decisions.

Señora Calvo Sotelo, the Prime Minister's wife and mother of eight children, recently told a woman's magazine that she was also in favour of introducing divorce in Spain.

The UCD was founded as a non-confessional party but, stimulated by the Church, the Christian Democratic wing has lately been increasingly active. Since Mgr Antonio Innocenti, the Nuncio, arrived here in January he has made clear that the Pope's instructions are to stop the introduction in Spain of a divorce law.

After much activity by the Christian Democrats against the Justice Minister's Bill—described as permitting "a Las Vegas-style divorce in Spain"—Señor Oscar Alzaga, one of their parliamentary leaders, last week tabled a series of amendments. These would remove as grounds for divorce a six-month separation by mutual consent

These amendments, which the bishops' conference publicly denied it had inspired, hark back to a Bill proposed by an earlier Christian Democratic Justice Minister dropped by Señor Adolfo Suárez in September last year when he brought in Señor Fernández Ordóñez to get a modern divorce Bill on the statute book.

The Catholic hierarchy has come under sharp criticism for its latest attitude after having adjusted to the inevitability of a modernization of Spanish society in numerous other fields.

Advertising campaigns, conferences and pressure on MPs have all been used in recent months to swing Catholic opinion against the divorce Bill. Participating in one such conference at the weekend, a Madrid theology professor gave this warning: "God has created the institution of marriage. To separate marriage from the dictates of natural law is to allow oneself to be caught up in the temptations of bestiality."

£8m pledged for Asia and Pacific development agency

From Neil Kelly
Bangkok, March 16

More than $18m (£8.13m) were pledged today to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Escap) for the present year. The Netherlands ($6.5m) and Japan ($4.3m) were the largest donors. Japan also presented a $1m computer centre.

West Germany pledged $1.9m, Australia $1.25m, Sweden $1.1m, France $879,000, and Britain $228,000. Britain's delegate told the session that its contribution this year to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which gives funds to Escap, would amount to £17.5m.

The United States said it pays 25 per cent of the United Nations' total annual budget from which Escap draws its ordinary budget, and 17 per cent of the UNDP budget. Money pledged today covers Escap's operating budget. Hundreds of millions more pounds are being spent by individual governments and United Nations agencies on projects in which Escap has some role.

Escap attempts to create "more food and less poverty" in countries ranging from Iran to Japan and from Mongolia to the Cook Islands.

Escap's thirty-seventh annual session, now in its second week, provides a glimpse of its enormously varied work. In one discussion, landlocked Nepal asked Escap to investigate means of improving air cargo services which are vital for exports.

In the same discussion, the delegate from Bangladesh said his Government was looking for a better bullock cart, as non-motorized vehicles would be needed in his country and others in the region for some time to come. Escap, he suggested, might be able to find an improved model somewhere.

Escap provides information, consultation and training. It does not provide capital, but has a hand in attracting funds for development, and it organizes international assistance to reinforce development efforts of individual nations.

Sometimes it is criticized as "a successful bureaucratic duplicating machine". There has been some of that criticism at this session.

Mr Francis Bugotu, Foreign Minister of the Solomon Islands, said that he spoke as a Pacific Islander who had seen Escap papers pushed around offices without knowing what the word meant. It was high time, he said, that people in the Pacific knew what Escap meant and felt its impact on their lives.

Energy problems and their effect on the lives of 2,500 million people in the Escap region have dominated the annual session, but delegates from the 43 member nations have also turned to other difficulties.

Drought, erosion, waterlogging and salinity are threatening to create deserts in the lands of 300 million people in Asia and the Pacific.

Although Escap's goal is to double the region's per capita income by the year 2000, social issues and human well-being are emphasized in development programmes.

There may soon be a post created in the secretariat to guard the interests of women who often provide cheap labour for building and agriculture.

Rise in marriage age planned

Bangladesh strives to cut population growth

From Trevor Fishlock
Dacca, March 16

Bangladesh, one of the world's most densely crowded countries, is planning to raise its marriage age as part of its largest and most comprehensive drive to bring its population growth under control.

Women can marry at 16 and men at 18 at present, and three quarters of women have their first child by the age of 17. The Cabinet is now framing legislation to raise the legal age of marriage to 18 for women and 21 for men. It is hoped to have the law enacted in the next session.

A doubling of food production and a considerable decrease in population are the Government's most pressing objectives. These are a simple matter of survival for a country where nine tenths of the people are rated as poor.

In less than a generation the population has doubled to an estimated 90 million. The country is essentially a chronically flood-prone river delta of 55,000 square miles, smaller than England and Wales (58,000 square miles). Projections of the country's population by the end of the century vary from 143 millions to 170 millions.

Such forecasts appal the Government. It wants the population to be held well below these estimates. President Ziaur Rahman, who heads the National Population Council, has called for an unprecedented national effort to slow, and then halt, the growth.

He wants to see 100,000 men and women volunteering for sterilization each month, to reduce population growth from 2½ per cent to a half per cent. He wants the targets set in the five year plan to be achieved in three years.

Aid agencies and others in Bangladesh doubt that even two thirds of the targets will be reached. But there can be no question of the Government's determination in its birth-control drive and—for a conservative Muslim country—its boldness.

The President, the father of two sons, never ceases to hammer the message that "two is enough" during his frequent helicopter trips from Dacca to the villages. The slogan is repeated in the newspapers every day, in radio and television programmes, and by the thousands of family planning field workers, administrators and village councillors who have been told to involve the entire population in the campaign.

President Zia knows that in such a religious country any objection from religious leaders would be damaging. Fortunately, the President has been able to harness the power of the Koran which indicates that family limitation is permitted in certain circumstances. This reassurance is being spread by

Religion apart, it is not easy to change a tradition of large families when children represent free labour.

"It takes time to educate people", a district officer said. "At first, they ask the point of having only two children, in the same way that they want to know the point of teaching children to read and write."

Women are more enthusiastic about family planning than men. But one of the problems is that in some areas demand for tubectomy and vasectomy has outstripped the availability of medical services.

Dr Muhammad Matin, Minister of Health and Population Control, said there was no time to send doctors on courses to learn how to do the operations. Instead, doctors who have been trained to do them are being sent all over Bangladesh to perform sterilizations and, at the same time, teach local colleagues the techniques.

The population control programme has suffered in the past because field-worker training and practice has been inadequate and because supplies of contraceptives have not been universally reliable.

Dr Matin hopes that these faults have been cured. "We are much better organized now, with more people involved and a more efficient supply system. We feel the targets can be reached because they are reasonable ones. There are 68,000 villages in Bangladesh and if only two people come forward from each one, each month, we will be well ahead of target. The programme is voluntary and there is no pressure on anybody."

Police radio networks will be used in remote districts to ensure that medical and contraceptive supplies are maintained. The police radio will also be used in the regular collection of statistics, especially the number of sterilizations performed.

Uganda puts ban on four critical papers

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, March 16

Four weekly newspapers which have openly criticized the ruling Uganda People's Congress have been banned by the Ugandan Government.

The ban affects the *Citizen, Economy* (published in English), *Afrika* and *Mulengera* (published in Luganda).

No statement on the ban has been made by the Ugandan Government but formal orders have been served on all four newspapers, signed by Mr John Luwuliza-Kirunda, Minister of Internal Affairs.

Uganda Radio today quoted another minister, Mr Peter Otai, as criticizing local newspapers for reporting incidents of murder and looting by Ugandan troops. The most recent report on the subject, however, was published in the Government-owned *Ugandan Times*.

The end of the Amin regime in Uganda two years ago saw the emergence of a number of outspoken independent papers.

The newspaper bans may be raised in the first session of the new Parliament, which began meeting today.

Inquiry will try to do justice to Aboriginal laws

From Our Correspondent
Melbourne, March 16

The Australian Law Reform Commission begins this week an inquiry into reconciling traditional Aboriginal law and Australian law.

The commission will inquire into the extent to which Australian law should accommodate Aboriginal law and the extent to which Aboriginal communities should be able to apply traditional law and punishments.

The commission will examine such questions as whether traditional punishments such as killing and spearing, should be allowed; whether arranged marriages between young girls and older men should be permitted;

The commission also wants to hear from Aborigines on aspects of tribal law which should be recognized by Australian law. Mr Bruce Debelle, who is in charge of the inquiry said yesterday that an important question was how Aboriginal communities could maintain law and order themselves.

THE ARTS

Gainsborough surprises and delights the French

Gainsborough
Grand Palais, Paris

Rainer Fetting
Anthony d'Offay

Franz-Gregor Hiltner
Edward Totah Gallery

"The exhibition has already been shown at the Tate Gallery, London," blandly observes the catalogue of the big Gainsborough show now in Paris at the Grand Palais (until April 27). But only in a manner of speaking, one must add. In fact and in effect, the London and Paris versions are quite different exhibitions. The London version was arranged on the principle, that since the famous portrait masterpieces were readily available in London already, at Kenwood, Dulwich, the National Gallery or, a few rooms away, in the Tate itself, it was not necessary to borrow them, or even move them, for the exhibition.

There are two arguments against this: the immediate, practical one that if you had, say, just one day to give Gainsborough, you would be very hard put to it to take in Dulwich and Kenwood as well; and the subtler but equally telling one that a show, especially if, as in this case, it is the first major one within living memory, should take nothing for granted, but establish within itself its own structure and its own priorities. There is little point in playing *Hamlet* without the Prince of Denmark, even if you do presume that everyone knows it backward anyway.

Luckier, then, the French than ourselves, in that no great prior knowledge of Gainsborough is assumed on their behalf, and consequently the show has been completely rethought to put the acknowledged masterpieces back in their rightful central position. Paris has corrected the extravagant overbalance in London in favour of the landscapes, which, excellent though many of them are, and fascinating though the chance to see so many of them was for the art historian, are really peripheral to Gainsborough's main work.

In figures it works out something like this: London had 98 oils, of which 53 are not shown in Paris; Paris has 77 oils, of which, obviously, 32 were not included in London. Of the 51 drawings in London, 25 have been eliminated and replaced by 11 newcomers: two original engravings by Gainsborough were shown in London, of which one has been eliminated for Paris and three added, in addition to seven engravings by others after lost Gainsboroughs which only Paris is seeing.

The whole effect of the exhibition is very different. To begin with, everything is much lighter and airier in Paris where the show has the grand suite of rooms on the first floor of the Grand Palais (leaving the Pissarros from the Hayward, surprisingly, to be lined up unappealingly in the grimmer rooms on the two upper floors). Consequently the paintings have much more room to breathe than in the dark-walled setting created for them at the Tate, and it is not surprising that all the French critics seem to be vying in their praise of the lightness, grace and fluidity of Gainsborough's art. But then it is not only the setting which gives that impression. Most of the darker, stodgier landscapes have vanished, and in their place are some of the most delicious early figures-in-landscapes, such as the National Gallery's *Robert Andrews and His Wife Frances* and *John Plampin*, reclined easily on a low branch attended by a large dog, or the Mellon Collection's wonderful *John and Ann Gravenor and their daughters Ann and Elizabeth*, a riot of pink and citron in a cornfield.

Later on, there is Kenwood's stunning *Mary, Countess Howe*, a virtuoso piece (especially in its exquisite rendering of the lacy overskirt against the pink of the dress itself) which does not seem to be so because the emphasis on the character of the subject is so accurately placed, and Southampton's almost absurdly English *George Vernon, future second Lord Vernon*, a new image in Gainsborough's mature style of man, tree trunk and attendant hound (rather oddly reversed in the catalogue). Indeed, French suppositions about the English character may well be strongly reinforced by this congregation of pictures in which soft and sentimental-looking chaps are embracing or being embraced by their doggy companions—the most extreme and (I would say) the most touching example of this, *Henry Third Duke of Buccleuch* wrapped lovingly round a peculiarly demented-looking mutt, was incomprehensibly found vulgar by at least one French critic, which must surely represent some deep division between the respective national characters.

Prejudices reinforced or no, the show seems to have been an unqualified triumph in Paris. Attendances, for a start, have been far higher in Paris than in London. The critics have been universal in their enthusiasm, falling over themselves in their eagerness to explain that of course *they* know Gainsborough from their visits to England, but accepting that by and large Gainsborough has been up to now very much an unknown quantity for their readers. There has been also a lot of emphasis on Gainsborough's romantic qualities: the dreamy atmosphere of his paintings, the intensity of the sensations they convey, the feathery, proto-Impressionist lightness of his touch. Most of the French critics have, quite rightly, disregarded the catalogue's frequent warnings that this or that painting is unfinished. In a sense it is no doubt true—possibly even Gainsborough regarded them as such—but then there are so many of them, dating from all through his career, that he kept about him in this state or belatedly, unwillingly let out to patient sitters; one must suppose they were as finished as he wanted them to be, and it was merely the convention of the period which imposed the notion that they were still unfinished. In London the show administered a few salutary shocks; in Paris the revelation is complete and unarguable.

Meanwhile, back in London there are two curiously contrasted shows by young German artists, both of whom are 31. Up to now, Rainer Fetting has created rather more stir: this year already he has been included in the Royal Academy's *New Spirit in Painting* show, and the Goethe Institute's *10 Artists from Berlin*, and now he has a one-man show in Anthony d'Offay's newer gallery at 23 Dering Street (until April 10). This is the first time the gallery has been used for paintings, and it must be said that it is a beautiful space, which would probably make almost anything look good. However, Fetting does not really require adventitious aids of that kind: he is a strong colourist who goes straight for the bold gesture, and even in the rather confused surroundings of the Royal Academy show his work stood out.

He belongs to a loosely defined group of new German painters who might be classified as neo-expressionists. Hödicke, about whom I was writing from Berlin a couple of weeks ago, seems to be the senior and most influential member; Fetting's work is closely related, but carries the violence implicit in Hödicke several stages farther. His mildest works are a series of shower scenes of intense dynamism and a controlled savagery of colour; otherwise typical works are a series of paintings on the subject of *Man and Axe*, virtually identical except for changes of colour, and another series, the second of which is shown here, entitled *Another Murder at the Anvil*, reflecting on the side of New York life rather similar to that exploited in the film *Cruising*. In himself, Fetting proves to be (not surprisingly) serious, mild-mannered and conventionally suited: no doubt art often goes by contraries.

The other German artist on view, Franz-Gregor Hiltner, who has a one-man show at the Edward Totah Gallery, Floral Street, Covent Garden, until March 29, represents something close to an opposite view of what art is all about. Instead of the bold brushwork and large areas of vibrant colour, Hiltner goes in for very pale canvases (actually sacking stretched, American-Indian style, to a framework made of straight branches) covered with small hieroglyphs and conventionalized outline figures of men, animals and birds. Since he has been, this past year, on a DAAD grant in Britain, his work, while retaining these American-Indian associations, has been taking in elements of subject-matter and visual detail which seem linked, rather, with the primitive Celtic world. Though some of his paintings are quite large, he remains fundamentally a miniaturist who works by accretion, loading his compositions with signs and symbols until we are left with a kind of palimpsest of inscriptions in forgotten languages and evocations of unknown rites. If Fetting immediately attacks our senses, Hiltner sneaks up on us through the collective unconscious; it remains to be seen which effect is the more lasting.

John Russell Taylor

Thomas Gainsborough : Mary, Countess Howe

Bianca e Fernando
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Hilary Finch

At the dress rehearsal in April, 1828 of the first performance of *Bianca e Fernando*, a completely refurbished second version of his second opera, Bellini announced that he was pinning his hopes for the evening on the three cavatinas and finale of the first act, and the duet and two *scene* of the second.

And since the entire interest of this work, weak in both dramatic structure and characterization, lies indeed in its set pieces (and, to some extent for us, in spotting with hindsight some rather smudgy fingerprints of the later Bellini we know and may love) it was sensible of Pro Opera, in conjunction with the Donizetti Society, to give a concert performance as its first British showing, and incidentally to provide such unusually comprehensive and well-planned programme notes.

But was it sensible to revive the work at all? So generally crude is the orchestration, so inept the chorus writing, so stillborn, for the most part, the melodic invention, that the work certainly needs directing with more confidence and panache than Leslie Head was able to bring to it on Sunday, if it is to woo more than the staunchest Bellini groupies.

Pacing and tempi, especially in recitative and ensemble should have been far tighter and more decisive: too often the orchestra's sluggishness weighed down the brave athleticism of even the best singers, while the London Student Chorale as a well enough drilled chorus seemed bored to tears.

Things did get better in the second act. With a moderately moving duet and at least three memorable arias, each principal singer was able to confirm and amplify the skills which, in Sunday's comparatively strong cast, had already helped to make Act 1 reasonably tolerable.

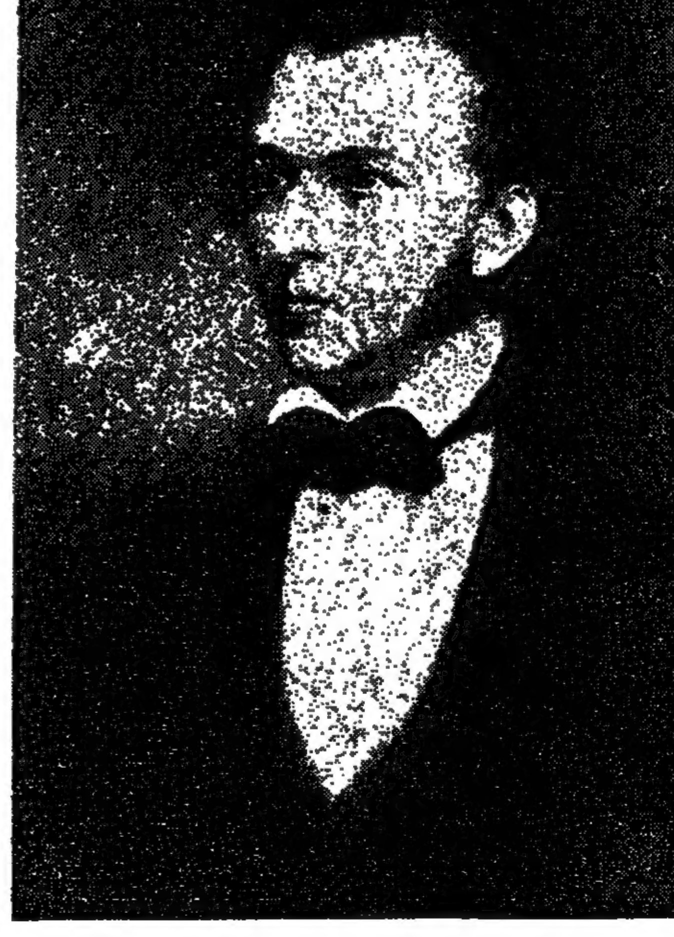
Sandra Hahn made her London opera debut as a winningly ingenuous Bianca, her unforced often radiantly pure soprano not quite strong enough yet at the top to meet all Bellini's demands. She grew throughout the role, though, as did Michael Lewis as the villain Filippo. Something of an expert on the opera's original tenor, Rubini, Bruce Brewer brought to the part of Fernando quite unequalled and unflagging stylistic and technical *richesse*: his burnished, steely, always idiomatic singing, with a particularly distinctive head voice gave us our only glimpse of the operatic ambience of a time in which Bellini could write "opera, through singing, must make one weep, shudder, die".

Book review

An inclination to the great Pole

Chopin Playing
By James Methuen-Campbell
(Gollancz, £14.50)

James Methuen-Campbell has not vied with critics like Harold Schonberg and Joachim Kaiser in writing just another book about pianists. Believing Chopin's music to have played "an especially significant role in drawing together musicians and music-lovers from all parts of the world", while at the same time remaining open "to a wider variety of successful interpretations than that of any other great composer, with the possible exception of J. S. Bach", he has preferred to concentrate on just those artists with a special leaning towards the great Pole. First he examines Chopin himself at the piano, and such famous contemporaries as Liszt, together with their pupils and disciples. He then divides the ever widening circle of Chopin players into national schools carried right through to the younger generation of today.



Descriptions of older artists might lead the unsuspecting reader to imagine the author an octogenarian at least. In fact Mr Methuen-Campbell is still a very young man, one who has not only made it his business to attend practically every piano recital of note since the opening of the South Bank, but also to read widely, to interview countless players and teachers with longer memories than his own, and last but not least to track down almost every recording of Chopin's music ever made, however primitive the means or obscure the source. His detailed discography at the end is invaluable: if tempted to question Mr Methuen-Campbell's personal judgments (as everyone in this subjective field is bound to at some point or other) at least the reader knows exactly where to go to put any specific issue to the test.

Evaluations and conclusions are inevitably fraught with contradictions. So many artists born in one country have studied or lived in another, upsetting nationalist pigeon-holing. As for pin-pointing the "ideal" in Chopin playing, here there are even greater difficulties arising from the many facets of the music, the more demonstratively heroic of which even the composer himself, renowned for his exquisite delicacy and finesse at the keyboard, could not sustain—and incidentally no one has better conveyed the quintessence of Chopin's own playing than Schumann in an unforgettable description of the A flat major study, Op 25, No 1, heard as if from some magical Aeolian harp in a dream (unfortunately not quoted in this book). Yet from the cornucopia of styles and names, Mr Methuen-Campbell chooses the Slavs as the most generally sympathetic to the music-at-large. He also singles out (in order of birth) Pachmann, Michalowski, Rosenthal, Cortot and Koczalski, three of them from the land of Chopin's birth, one from the country of his adoption, as the five artists who through direct links with pupils and friends, have probably come closest to the composer's own style at the keyboard.

Very thoroughly researched and annotated as it is, the book would have benefited from a little weeding, as Sterndale Bennett remarked of the piano concerto by the 16-year-old Clara Wieck (later Schumann), who did more for the young Chopin's cause in Germany than anyone then living. For the general reader, it is probably too cluttered with lesser names. It is also unnecessarily repetitive; as for instance when we are told twice over that the long forgotten Maria Szymanowska was a friend of John Field favourably compared with Hummel, or that the 1932 International Chopin Contest had to be decided by the toss of a coin because Ungar and Uninsky had the same number of points. Nevertheless Chopin devotees not compelled to swallow it all at one sitting will find it an absorbing survey. Of the several personal titbits thrown in for good measure, I particularly cherish the image of poor Queen Victoria, overcome by the ferocity of Anton Rubinstein's playing at Windsor Castle, discreetly backing her chair away from the piano whenever he was not looking.

Joan Chissell

Some of the notices on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions.

RPO/Weller
Festival Hall

Paul Griffiths

It was not a night for musical exquisites. As if *Sheherezade* were not sufficient a feast of the flashy and showy for one programme, Walter Weller and the Royal Philharmonic chose to begin their concert on Sunday evening with *Till Eulenspiegel*. We certainly needed the lesson of Liszt's second piano concerto, played between these monsters, that the beautiful must inevitably come with its own embarrassment of banality.

The Liszt was also welcome in other ways. Its scoring seemed a masterpiece of delicacy, and this was due not only to the context but also to Garrick Ohlsson's willingness to let the solo part become an accompaniment when necessary. Particularly in those passages where he was alone with an oboe or a cello, he showed the sensitivity of a chamber musician, though indeed there was a pleasant lack of egoism throughout his performance, a disinclination to accept the obvious role of piano chauvinist.

The grand charges up and down the keyboard were not flashy, but tight, disciplined and thoroughly exhilarating. The march of the Finale was cleaned of its strut, and everywhere Mr Ohlsson did what he could to place his virtuosity at the service of purely musical brilliance, producing marvels of starsounds in the upper register, shimmering effects of pedal resonance, and bursts of speed when his fingers danced over the keys in a haze.

Mr Weller also managed things of singular beauty where one might have thought the possibilities fairly limited, as when he had a slow waltz echoing through deserted ballrooms at the start of the work, and he did much the same in the Strauss and the Rismky-Korsakov. Without quite apologizing for these pieces he kept them well under control, enough to remind one that *Sheherezade* is some kind of a symphony and that *Till* is a tumbling inventory of ways to vary a scene so that it sounds equally apt on every instrument in the book.

With so much close scrutiny of the orchestration here it was a pity the woodwind could not always keep exact time, but in *Sheherezade* the entire orchestra was as one in following the precision of Mr Weller's beat and filling out the details of an interpretation that was as much edgy and severe as sumptuous. Rather as in Borodin's *Prince Igor*, on which Rimsky had been working at the time, the exotic became barbarous and bizarre: a pungent banquet, for once, instead of uninterrupted Turkish delight.

LPO/Lopez Cobos
Festival Hall

Joan Chissell

Though we have recently had a generous back view of Mstislav Rostropovich on the rostrum, four long years are said to have elapsed (hard as it is to believe) since he last faced London concert-goers sitting down, with his cello. He made his return on Sunday afternoon with the LPO under Jesus Lopez-Cobos, not in a best-seller but the infrequently heard Sinfonia Concertante dedicated to him by Prokofiev the year before his death.

Mr Rostropovich's affection for the work is understandable. It was his playing of the cello concerto from which it grew that lead Prokofiev to develop it into Sinfonia Concertante. He was at the composer's side throughout the summer of 1950 when the metamorphosis began, and he gave the Moscow premiere in 1952. In lesser hands it could easily sound too long, its material not Prokofiev at his most memorable either in grotesquerie or lyricism. But with Mr Rostropovich as advocate, every note leapt off the page.

Technical difficulties in the central Allegro and the final variations were dissolved into child's play, despite the work's rating by Prokofiev's biographer, Nestyev, as one of the most difficult in cello literature. Still more memorable was the glorious sun-soaked tone Mr Rostropovich drew from his instrument throughout a very wide range (occasionally extending well into violin territory), with some sumptuous double-stopping en route. Hearing him sing out the cantilena of the opening Andante, and equally the extended full-hearted E major melody of the Allegro, made it impossible to understand how we ever came to allow this great cellist his four years' silence. Last, but not least, he remembered the work's title: the solo part was woven into the tapestry with scrupulous concern for orchestral incident and colour.

Fashion
by
Suzy Menkes

Putting in the needle

Since it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than it is to find a holiday outfit in July, now is the moment to put the needle to its traditional use.

Sewing went out of style when our shops were flooded with mass-produced clothes. The skill that was once the prerequisite of every genteel young lady and any housewife with a family to dress, is now booming business once again. For without a pin to pierce the price bubble of high fashion, the cost of getting dressed can be prohibitive.

Holiday clothes are a fruitful area for the home dressmaker, because it is important to most women to have something new to take away, and because the season of lightweight clothes is so very short.

You could almost count on fingers and thumbs the number of occasions during 1980 when it was possible to wear a conventional summer dress, even with its soulmate, the woolly cardigan. Cotton clothes, especially those imported from India, are still fairly cheap, but anything that makes a dent in your budget and spends weeks inside your wardrobe is still a relative luxury.

The shorts on this page will cost you £3.62½ to make. The coat-dress is £7.10½. The dress, which is actually a skirt and blouse, £10.87½. If you add to that a fiver for zips, buttons and thread, and the price of the pattern, the total comes to under £30, which is about what you would pay for a sundress off a shop rail.

Those readers who do sew will already have realized that the outfits photographed on this page come from one pattern. Summer separates are the only sensible clothes to take on holiday, because you then get the maximum use from one suitcase load. I chose a Burda pattern which has a good basic shirt (which grows into a dress, and can be made with long or short sleeves). With it go either bermuda shorts or a button-through skirt, so that the whole series can give you six different permutations: shirt-waister dress, skirt on its own, skirt unbuttoned over shorts, shorts and shirt, shorts under dress, and finally, the dress on its own as a beach wrap.

It sounds simple and it is, if you plan the fabrics according to your personal style and circumstances. I show here two contrasting moods of summer dressing: the 'preppy' American college look or the sultry jungle fashion. You could equally choose a sophisticated crisp cotton pique or a sweet flower-printed cretonne. You could make each piece in the same fabric for the ultimate in mix and match, or any garment could be made to be worn separately with other items you already own.

These sewing patterns are intended to be an inspiration and to prove that there is absolutely nothing dowdy or makeshift about dressmaking in the eighties. It is sometimes said that the paper pattern people are unadventurous and do not react quickly enough to incoming trends. If that were once true, it is not now the case, for anything from a camisole top to a culotte skirt can be found in the current ranges.

A woman who will happily run up a frock for her daughter, is often wary about making trousers or shorts for herself. A pattern like Burda that is an exact fit, requires only that you measure yourself accurately in order to get the proper fit around the hips.

Ironically enough, the rigidly chic tailoress who took me through the intricacies of pattern cutting at a prestigious Paris dressmaking school, told me that the shoulder-line (not the waist, the hips or the buttocks) marks the division between the amateur dressmaker and the professional.

I wonder how she would feel if she knew that all those hours of patient teaching are now being used to run up the spare bedroom curtains?



Hair by Zak at Zachary Simons, Marylebone High Street. Photographs by PETER WALDMAN.

Left: Short-sleeved blouse and button-through skirt from Burda pattern 8424. Madras cotton (101 cm wide) £2.90 a metre from Liberty, Regent Street, London W.1. White T-shirt by Sun and Sand. White leather belt by Otto Glanz from Selfridges, Harrods; John Lewis stores. Holiday hat by Marida. Pearlized bangles by Turq. Loafer shoes £29.99 from Russell and Bromley.

Above: Button-through dress and safari shorts both from Burda pattern 8424. Jungle print cotton (90 cm wide) £2.45 a metre, cotton gaberdine shorts (150 cms wide) £3.45 a metre, both from a selection at John Lewis Heavy leather belt by Otto Glanz from Fenwicks, Brent Cross and John Lewis stores. Bangles by Turq. Stud bangle from Cassoo, Rose Street, London, WC2. Sandals in bronze, silver or gold £35 from Bertie, 48 South Molton Street, Wigmore Street W1, and Kings Road SW3.

Burda patterns available from Liberty or Bournes in London, John Lewis, Brent Cross, Jessops of Nottingham, Liberty, Manchester or their shops in R. W. Forsyth, Edinburgh and Glasgow. Schofields in Leeds and Sheffield. Or by mail order from Perivale Guterman Ltd, Wadsworth Road, Greenford, Middlesex UB6 7JS.



Drawings by Duncan Mil

Fresh permutations on the sew-it-yourself holiday wardrobe.
Left: the jungle print dress worn as a beach wrap. Cotton (90 cm wide) £2.45 a metre from John Lewis. Swimsuit by Jer-Sea from a selection at Debenhams and Dickins and Jones.
Right: Madras shirt in Indian cotton (101 cm wide) £2.90 a metre from Liberty. Shorts in cotton gaberdine (150 cm wide) £3.45 a metre from John Lewis. Three-button striped T-shirt by Sun & Sand from a selection at Fenwicks of Bond Street.

Beauty class

A wind of change is blowing through the beauty counters this Spring. For the first time for several seasons there is a sea change in the colours of make-up and the way you apply it.

The warm wind from the Sahara that has brought us safari jackets and tropical prints in fashion, introduces a spicy colour palette that is based on either sand (shading from the palest silver green to a *deep gold), or a terracotta base which warms up to a rose pink* or shades down to a pearly beige.

A more bracing Atlantic breeze has inspired cosmetic ranges to complement the crisp nautical clothes of the new season. This colour spectrum fixes eyes on the blue horizon, with shades from sea green to azure and shows reds and corals for lips.

Both the different looks draw a definitive line under the sweet mauves, heathers and burgundies, the rusts and browns that have recently been the fashionable colours.

Beauty houses seem to prowl in pairs for their inspiration. Both Estee Lauder with her Great American Desert colours and Revlon with the Sundance range, have drawn from the American landscape. This is rather an inspired choice for gentle British complexions (although both houses are international) because the Arizona rocks are tinged with pink rather than yellow which results in very wearable cosmetic colours.

Hotter, stronger shades, but in the same colour spectrum, come from the African connexion. Helena Rubinstein's Sahara Colours make effective use of peach and coral for both eyes and lips. Max Factor launch their Maxi African Sands collection next month with a strong sapphire blue (they call it "oasis") and a hot orange lipstick.

A vivid banana yellow is in Mary Quant's Hot Tropics collection, which goes on sale nationwide from today and should do as much as the crocuses to brighten up our Spring.

The final source of inspiration of the African look is the waters of the Nile from which both the prestigious houses of Orlane and Harriet Hubbard Ayer have drunk. I do not know whether this romantic river is really as clear and unpolluted as these make-up ranges suggest, but Ayer's Lazulite eyeshadow and Orlane's Nile Blue from the Vallée du Nil collection are both appealing. Off on their hols to the chic French Atlantic coast went Ultima II and Lançome. The Deauville range from Ultima II is strong on coral and red with a pearly sea shell effect for eyes. The same spirit inspires Lançome with "Biarritz", and both these houses will be popular with women who feel nervous at the idea of painting their eyes red.

Whatever your own predilections or preconceptions about *make-up, I do think that it is* important to be receptive to new colours and to the manner of applying them.

The current make-up looks rely on blending colours so that there are no sharp lines of definition between cheeks, eyes and lips, or between the areas, like cheekbones, that you highlight and others that you shade away.

The duo-pack of eyeshadows *is now a standard cosmetic line,* and watching what the experts have put together (like Quant's banana yellow and burnt orange) is instructive. The leading houses like Estee Lauder and Orlane are now making four-shadow packs, and you really are meant to blend these colours together, as you are with duo eye crayons (like a double ended pencil).

It is all a far cry from the days of dabbing on a bit of blue shadow to match your eyes and one lipstick to go with everything.

You even need a battery of applicators to get a professional finish (Boots have a good kit of four brushes and sponges for £1.99).

Many women have been left behind by the tide of new ideas, stranded with the make-up ideas of earlier days. Because it is so inhibiting (and expensive) to try out the newest looks, I welcome the New Beauty Clinics set up by Helena Rubinstein this Spring.

Starting with Debenhams in Gloucester (18-21 March) and continuing through major stores nationwide, Rubinstein will hold morning and afternoon classes (with a late night or Saturday session for working women). Just ten 'pupils' (and you have to book) will be shown the principles of shaping, shading and highlighting the face and allowed to experiment with colours and products. The classes cost £3 (refundable against a make-up purchase) and future dates include Selfridges in London (18 April - 2 May), Howells in Cardiff (20 - 23 May), Debenhams, Sheffield (19 - 22 August) and many more.

Law Report March 16 1981 — Court of Appeal

Arbitrator's power to award interest on demurrage payment

Tehno-Impex v Gebr van Weelde Scheepvaartkantoor BV
Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Oliver and Lord Justice Watkins
[Judgments delivered March 12]

Declaring unanimously that modern conditions with radical changes in the value of money require an urgent reappraisal of the common law rule on interest, the Court of Appeal, by a majority, held that an arbitrator in an arbitration dealing with shipping matters within the Admiralty jurisdiction had power to award interest on sums due and unpaid.

The court, in reserved judgments, Lord Justice Oliver dissenting, allowed an appeal by Dutch shipowners, Gebr van Weelde Scheepvaartkantoor BV, from Mr Justice Parker who held ([1980] 1 Lloyd's Rep 484) in favour of Yugoslav charterers, Tehno-Impex, that the arbitrator had no power to award interest for the late payment of demurrage or interest upon that interest from the date of the demurrage payments to the date of the arbitrator's award of interest.

Section 3 of the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1934, provides: "(1) In any proceedings tried in any court of record for the recovery of any debt or damages, the court may, if it thinks fit, order that there shall be included in the sum for which judgment is given interest at such rate as it thinks fit on the whole or any part of the debt or damages for the whole or any part of the period between the date when the cause of action arose and the date of the judgment: Provided that nothing in this section—(a) shall authorize the giving of interest upon interest; or (b) shall apply in relation to any debt upon which interest is payable as of right whether by virtue of any agreement or otherwise;

Section 1 of the Administration of Justice Act, 1956, provides: "(1) The Admiralty jurisdiction of the High Court shall be as follows . . ., jurisdiction to hear and determine any of the following questions or claims— . . . (h) any claim arising out of any agreement relating to the carriage of goods in a ship or the use or hire of a ship . . .".

Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was granted.

Mr Stewart Boyd and Mr Jeffrey Gruder for the owners; *Mr Richard Aikens for the charterers.*

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the case arose out of the pile-up of ships off Lagos in 1975 which led to large sums being payable for demurrage. The owners had agreed with the charterers to carry cement from Split, in Yugoslavia, to Lagos or Port Harcourt. Twelve voyages were performed. The rest were suspended. Difference between the parties were referred to the arbitrator, Mr Clifford Clark, under the London arbitration clause.

The charterers said that they had overpaid $30,000 demurrage on the last voyage, but they had been very late in paying the demurrage. The arbitrator had awarded interest to the charterers on the $30,000 which they had overpaid at 7½ per cent from the date of payment, January 1, 1977, to the date of his award on August 13, 1979, but he had awarded no interest to the owners on the sums which were paid late by the charterers in 1975 and 1976 before the arbitration was started.

The arbitrator had made it clear "that the rule, if it be the rule," that, in the absence of a term to the contrary effect in the contract, "a debtor can delay payment as long as he likes, and can avoid liability for interest by paying the principal sum at any time, is one which does not accord with justice nor commercial commonsense".

No doubt the arbitrator had made his interim award because he wanted the courts to decide whether maritime arbitrators in the City of London could award interest on late payments. Mr Justice Parker had refused to set the award aside. The owners appealed.

There were three categories of cases: (1) where the principal sum had not been paid before the award and that principal sum was claimed with interest; (2) where the principal sum had been paid after commencement of the arbitration but before the making of the award, and interest or damages were claimed for the period it was outstanding; (3) where the principal sum had been paid before the commencement of the arbitration and interest was claimed for the period of delay.

As to category (1), when the common law courts were developing their rules about interest, sterling was a stable currency. Both Lord Mansfield and Chief Justice Best would have allowed juries to award interest as damages. But in *Page v Newman* ((1829) 9 B & C 378) Lord Tenterden, *Chief Justice*, had ruled otherwise, although in *The Badger* ((1819) 2 B & A 691) he had himself with the full King's Bench held that arbitrators could award interest when in their discretion they thought proper.

The House of Lords in *London, Chatham and Dover Railway v South Eastern Railway Co* ([1893] AC 429) had affirmed with reluctance the common law rule in *Page v Norman*. The 1934 Act allowed interest to be given on debt or damages, but it did not apply to arbitrations: it was confined to "any proceedings tried in any court of record" and it only applied where judgment was given for the principal sum.

Astute debtors took advantage of that. They delayed for months before the writ was issued; then for more months till the action was about to come to trial. They paid the principal at the last moment before judgment; and so avoided paying any interest. Such unscrupulous conduct should not be allowed in commercial arbitrations.

There were never any juries in the Chancery courts so the rules in *Page v Newman* did not apply to them. Chancery courts in their equitable jurisdiction could award interest when it was considered equitable to do so: *Wallersteiner v Moir (No 2)* ([1975] QB 373, 388, 406).

From the earliest times it was Admiralty Court practice to allow interest on debt or damages in that court: *The Northumbria* ((1869) LR 3 A & E 6) and *The Aldora* ([1975] QB 748). The cross-claims in the present case were well within the Admiralty jurisdiction under section 1(1)(h) of the Administration of Justice Act, 1956. In all the other legal systems of the world the general rule was that the withholding of a debt entitled the creditor to interest.

On principle it seemed clear that arbitrators should be allowed to award damages for non-payment of money in those cases where such damage was within the reasonable contemplation of the parties under the *Hadley v Baxendale* rule, and that such damage could be assessed by taking a reasonable rate of interest.

The Badger had never been overruled and the text books and arbitrators had treated that case as giving arbitrators guidance to award interest. It had been the practice in commercial arbitrations in the City of London to award interest on the amounts found to be due: *The Finix* ([1978] 1 Lloyd's Ref 16, 19). Whenever arbitrators made an award for the whole or part of the principal sum or on cross-claims, they had a discretion to award damages in the shape of interest for the period when the debt or damages had been withheld.

Category (2) should come within the same principle as category (1). Mr Justice Hewson had been entitled to award damages in *The Medina Princess* ([1962] 2 Lloyd's Ref 17) because he was exercising his Admiralty jurisdiction under which he was entitled to award interest where it was equitable to do so.

During the last 20 years the monetary systems of the world had changed radically. Sterling was no longer a stable currency. Inflation was the order of the day.

If a debtor deliberately delayed payment for a year, he was a cheat, at any rate in commercial transactions where traders conducted business on overdrafts. By withholding the sum the debtor saved himself from paying interest and compelled the creditor to pay it instead. It was unjust that a debtor should be able to withhold payment of the debt till the creditor issued a writ or demanded arbitration. The radical changes in *the concept of money* and its value called for a reappraisal of the position. Awards could now be given in a foreign currency.

Mr Donald Davies, an experienced arbitrator, had written to the court saying that until Mr Justice Parker's judgment he and a number of his arbitrator colleagues had awarded interest where money was paid late provided he was making an award on another issue in the reference. His Lordship thought that it was open to arbitrators in the City of London to award interest by way of damages where claimants had suffered loss by being kept out of their money.

Where interest could be awarded, it was in the arbitrator's discretion to award it with yearly or half-yearly rests. Although interest upon interest was forbidden by the 1934 Act, arbitrators were not subject to it.

On the same principles in category (3), if a debtor delayed deliberately for a long time, he should not be able to avoid paying interest by paying just before the appointment of an arbitrator.

Arbitrators had a wide discretion to award interest whenever it was just and equitable to do so. But they might rarely allow it where the principal sum had been paid before the arbitration started, and the claim was for interest alone with no other claim or cross claim.

The appeal should be allowed and the case remitted to the arbitrator to consider whether and to what extent interest should be allowed on the late payment of demurrage.

LORD JUSTICE OLIVER, dissenting, said that the arbitrator's award was regrettable and offended one's sense of justice. The judge had held that the *London, Chatham and Dover Railway* case, which represented the common law of England and was binding on the court, was fatal to the owners' claim. If the arbitrator was bound to apply the common law rule with regard to interest, it must be fatal to the owners. In *Podar Trading Co Ltd v Tagher* ([1949] 2 KB 277) a Divisional Court decided that an arbitrator had no power to award interest.

So far as *The Badger* stated a principle it was no longer good law. Whatever might have been the origins of the common law rule as to interest, there came a time when it had been so long observed and so authoritatively pronounced that it had to be accepted as part of the substantive law. His Lordship did not see how one could apply a different rule to English arbitrations without discarding the basic implied term that the arbitrator should decide in accordance with the rights of the parties under English law.

It was clear from the authorities that the High Court of Admiralty had no general jurisdiction to entertain claims for demurrage under charter parties. His Lordship found it impossible to imagine that the legislature had by section 1 of the 1956 Act freed, by a side-wind, one branch of the same division of the High Court from the shackles of the *London, Chatham and Dover Railway* case.

Modern conditions required an urgent reappraisal of the common law rule with regard to interest. His Lordship's doubt was only whether the Court of Appeal could do so even in the limited sphere of arbitration. Regretfully he would dismiss the appeal.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS said that the case involved claims falling within the equitable principle *referred to by Mr Justice Brandon in The Aldora*, at p 753. The appeal should be allowed.

Solicitors: Thomas Cooper & Stibbard; William A. Crump & Son.

Duty of care in motorcycle race

Harrison v Vincent and Others
Before Sir John Arnold, President, Lord Justice Brandon and Lord Justice Watkins.
[Judgments delivered March 11]

Where an accident occurred in the course of a motor cycle and sidecar combination race which was partly due to a brake defect which should have been rectified beforehand by the cycle rider, the rider owed to the sidecar passenger, who was injured in the accident, the normal standard of care and not the modified standard applicable to competitors in a sport.

The Court of Appeal dismissed appeals by defendants, Mr Chris Vincent and Chris Vincent Developments Ltd, of Atherstone, Warwickshire, and Scarborough District Motor Club Ltd, of Scarborough, from Mr Justice Hodgson, who found that they had been negligent and ordered them to pay £102,640 damages and costs to the plaintiff, Mr Terence Sydney Harrison, of Tamworth Road, Sutton Coldfield.

Mr Malcolm Lee for Mr Vincent and Chris Vincent Developments; Mr Anthony Hidden, QC, and Mr Stephen Oliver-Jones for the motor club; Mr Swinton Thomas, QC, and Mr John Fletcher for the plaintiff.

The PRESIDENT said that the accident occurred in September, 1971, at Oliver's Mount racing circuit near Scarborough, during the international sidecar final. Mr Vincent was the rider and the plaintiff his sidecar passenger in the combination, known as an "outfit". A feature of the circuit was a hairpin bend called Mere Hairpin. The stretch of road before that bend was the fastest *part of the track, on which cycles* would reach speeds in excess of 100 mph. It was necessary to slow down to about 30 mph to negotiate Mere Hairpin.

As the outfit approached the bend, Mr Vincent tried to brake but found that the rear brake had failed, which reduced the initial braking power by some 40 per cent. It was also possible to brake by using the engine, but somehow Mr Vincent missed the gear; no complaint was made about that. The result was that they had to *escape from the track by a road* off Mere Hairpin that was available for the purpose. After the outfit had travelled down that road some distance, it collided with a vehicle parked on the grass verge, but projecting two feet into the roadway. The vehicle, owned by the motor club, was used for clearing away racing equipment that broke down during a race, and it had to be parked in the vicinity of the track. It could not be seen from Mere Hairpin.

The plaintiff was seriously injured, and brought an action for negligence. The allegation against Mr Vincent and the company that employed him was that there had been a negligent failure to align the rear brake mechanism properly and to inspect it adequately. The brake, a disc brake, worked by two pads operated by a caliper. The pads were kept in place by two split-pins. The judge found that the pins had broken owing to a misalignment of the caliper, and the pads had come out. A similar breakage from the same cause had occurred some days before the race, and new equipment had been installed. The judge found Mr Vincent and the company negligent.

One ground of appeal was that the judge applied the wrong standard of care. It was initially said that since rider and passenger were participating in an extremely dangerous sport, no duty of care was *involved at all*. That was certainly wrong. The main thrust of the argument, however, based on *Wooldridge v. Sumner* ([1963] 2 QB 44), was that there was a modified duty of care, so that only a reckless disregard for the plaintiff would found negligence. That standard would have been relevant if the objection had been to Mr Vincent missing the gear. But the acts complained of were not done in the flurry and excitement of the sport, but in the relative calm of the workshop. The normal standard of care applied.

The judge also found the motor club negligent, by virtue of the recovery vehicle being partly on the escape road. The club's principal point in the appeal was that it was not foreseeable that such an accident should have happened in the way it did, as there was a most improbable combination of circumstances piled on each other —the brake failure, the missing of the gear, and then the collision with the recovery vehicle.

The test was that laid down by Lord Reid in *The Wagon Mound (No 2)* ([1967] 1 AC 617, 642): ". . . a person must be regarded as negligent if he does not take steps to eliminate a risk which he knows or ought to know is a real risk and not a mere possibility which would never influence the mind of a reasonable man . . . it is justifiable not to take steps to eliminate a real risk if it is small and if the circumstances are such that a reasonable man, careful of the safety of his neighbour, would think it right to neglect it."

Article 08512 of the rules of the Fédération Internationale Motocycliste provided: "Wherever the course makes an abrupt change of direction and the original direction is continued along a road not forming part of the course, this slip-road must be kept open and unobstructed for a distance of at least 100 metres." The escape road was nothing like 100 metres long and it was not unobstructed. There was no principle that failure to comply with the FIM rules was necessarily negligent; their relevance was that there must be a reasonable excuse if any rule was not complied with.

It was *not a reasonable excuse* to say, as the motor club did, that such an accident had never happened before. Brake failures were not unknown. The management had a duty to assess dangers which a carefree competitor would disregard. The combination of circumstances was certainly unfortunate, but was not fantastic, and should have been in the club's reasonable contemplation. There was therefore a breach of duty.

The club also advanced an argument based on volenti non fit injuria. The judge found as a fact that the plaintiff was not aware of the presence of the recovery vehicle: he could not therefore have been volens to the risk to which he was being exposed.

There was a final issue on damages for loss of future earnings. The plaintiff, aged 42 at the date of trial, was previously a toolmaker, but would not again be able to earn anything as an employed person. He was, however, involved in a project for the design and construction of a "supercart", a sort of go-cart, which the judge thought could be brought to fruition with the help of the damages awarded. Using *Lim Poh Choo v Camden and Islington Area Health Authority* ([1979] QB 196), a case about a psychiatrist aged 41 at the date of the trial, as a guide, the judge took as a starting point a multiplier of 14, and reduced it to 12 in view of the expectation of some profit from the supercart enterprise.

It was arguable that there was no significant difference between a toolmaker and a psychiatrist, but the figure of 12 was at the top end of the bracket. It was not, however, so out of line as to justify the court interfering.

Lord Justice Brandon agreed.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS, concurring, said that a multiplier of 12 or 14 was by no means exceptional for a workman aged 42 or thereabouts in sound health and profitable employment.

Solicitors: Argyle & Sons, Tamworth; Tinsdill, Hollinshead & Moody, Stoke-on-Trent; Evershed & Tomkinson, Birmingham.

PARLIAMENT, March 16, 1981

Divided views about creating new crime of collusive tendering

House of Commons

Collusive tendering amounted to little more than a conspiracy to defraud public authorities and ratepayers, Mr John Fraser, an Opposition spokesman on trade, said at question time.

Mrs Sally Oppenheim, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, had been asked by Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark (Birmingham, Selly Oak, C) if she had yet concluded consideration of whether collusive tendering should be made a criminal offence.

Mrs Oppenheim (Gloucester, C) replied: I am still considering the many useful representations received. Views were sharply divided on the desirability of creating a new criminal offence and I am weighing these arguments carefully before coming to a decision.

Mr Beaumont-Dark: Does she not think that consultations and considerations have gone on long enough? Collusive tendering is an evil and should be legislated against or extra powers given to the Director General of Fair Trading to stamp out this offence.

Mrs Oppenheim: Major competition issues are involved in the question of collusive tendering. Like any restrictive agreements of this kind, they are subject to registration under the restrictive trade practice legislation.

Collusive tendering is particularly deceptive. It is often difficult to detect and to find concrete evidence. This is why my department issued a green paper on the subject. One of the problems concerns the practicability of enforcement.

It is also pointed out that the existing law of fraud might suffice in clear-cut cases. I agree this is a matter which deserves urgent and diligent consideration.

Mr John Fraser (Lambeth, Norwood, Lab): Because it is difficult to enforce is no reason for not making it a crime.

Collusive tendering amounts to little more than a conspiracy to defraud public authorities and ratepayers.

Mrs Oppenheim: Because something is difficult to detect means it is equally difficult to enforce. Laws impossible to enforce are not likely to have any deterrent effect with those who break them.

I want to examine all aspects of the representations that have been made. I shall reach my decision on the basis of the representations.

Origin of material for British-made suits

It would not be practicable to extend the legislation on origin marking to include the origin of cloth used in articles made in this country, Mrs Sally Oppenheim, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, said.

Mrs Oppenheim (Gloucester, C) said that she would keep the extension of the sectors covered by the Origin Marking Order under review, but her first priority was to implement the order, the principle of which had been widely welcomed as it stood, before considering the case for bringing new products or sectors in.

Mr Gary Waller (Brighouse and Spenborough, C): Would she take into account the special situation of the clothing industry? If it can be shown that the purchaser of an article of clothing has an economic need to know the country of origin of the cloth from which the article was made—where the cloth was made as well as the country in which the cloth was made up into the article—will she consider extending the origin marking order?

Mrs Oppenheim: I have received a number of representations on this point. I fear that it would not be practicable to extend the order in this way.

However, manufacturers, textile weavers and suppliers of cloth, are perfectly free to supply this information when goods are made up, and they often do so.

Mr Kenneth Woolmer (Batley and Morley, Lab): There is strong feeling, in the wool textile industry in particular, that the consumer is being misled and will be misled by labels that say "Made in Britain" when the wool cloth is imported.

It is disgraceful that she should ask the industry to prove to her that the consumer will benefit from this. It is an excuse for non-action. Would she consider again the need for the consumer to know?

Mrs Oppenheim: I find, if not disgraceful, then somewhat remarkable that criticism of the order should come from Labour MPs who are vocal about these orders and wish to extend them, but did nothing to introduce anything comparable when they were in office.

I understand the case of the textile industry. It is for them to make their representations to the manufacturers, most of whom will be pleased to put "British made textiles" on their labels.

Revised rules for price of spectacle frames

The Government was encouraging opticians to be more open about the price of spectacles so that patients could be made better aware of comparative costs, Mrs Sally Oppenheim, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, said. Mr Ivan Lawrence (Burton, C) had asked if she would prohibit restrictive practices in the sale of spectacles.

Mrs Oppenheim (Gloucester, C): I understand that the General Optical Council's revised rules on price display have been submitted to the Privy Council for approval.

The Director General of Fair Trading has decided that these should be given time to prove their effect on competition before reconsidering use of his powers.

Mr Lawrence: Why is it necessary to have to pay £40 for a pair of spectacles when a similar product is on sale in America and elsewhere for £5?

What assurances can she give that the price of spectacle frames will not be kept artificially high and that prospective buyers will be able to go from optical tests to another optician if he has looked at comparative prices exhibited in shop windows?

Mrs Oppenheim: The quick answer is he should buy spectacles in the United States. (Protests.) I recognize the problem, which concerns a number of people, about the provision of spectacles. The Government is encouraging opticians to be more open about prices so that patients can be made better aware of the cost involved and of the comparison of cost before committing themselves to purchase.

Mr John Smith, chief Opposition spokesman on trade, prices, and consumer protection (North Lanarkshire, Lab): It is unsatisfactory to suggest that an MP should buy goods from outside this country.

Time after time today during questions, when competition issues arise on which, she says, she places great reliance, it is clear that the Government are prepared to do little in practice to back the philosophy of competition they allegedly espouse.

Mrs Oppenheim: The only thing which will succeed in selling British goods in this country and abroad is when they are sold at prices and of a quality which is comparable with goods obtainable from abroad.

When they are not obviously consumers will not buy goods manufactured in this country. The whole point of strengthening competition policies, which this Government has done to a large extent, is to ensure that lower prices and a higher standard prevail for the consumer.

Voluntary method of conservation retained

House of Lords

A move further to safeguard the conservation of moorland was made by Lady White (Lab) when the Wildlife and Countryside Bill was considered on report for the third day.

She moved an amendment to give ministers power to make an order making the whole or part of a national park a designated area for the purpose of moorland conservation. The order would be by statutory instrument.

Everyone preferred voluntary agreements with farmers. But it was unrealistic to proceed as the Government wished without having some ultimate longstop to prevent destruction. Someone with a good legal advisor could go along with the voluntary arrangement so far and then get around it.

Earl De La Warr (C) said he was against the amendment. An enormous amount of work had been going on on Exmoor to create the framework for a system of voluntary notification, voluntary delay and voluntary agreements. He did not blame the farming community for fearing that there would be irresistible pressure to fall back on the compulsory method.

This would kill the voluntary compensation system. There was a growing movement among farmers towards voluntary conservation and to nip this as it was coming into full flower would be wrong.

Lord Hunt (Soc Dem) said all the supporters of the amendment were asking for was full protection for a few strictly defined, critical areas which had been approved as agricultural areas by Parliament in those national parks where there is significant and characteristic moorland and heath.

Voluntary arrangements for Exmoor, for instance, were short term. But the House was discussing arrangements for the next decade at least and there would be great changes in management, ownership, tenancies and agricultural technology during this time.

There would be a continuing incentive to plough land for agriculture. There would be more leisure and more ability to use it. Full protection was therefore called for.

Lord Foot (L) said they were not concerned with the farmers who had a sense of responsibility. The problem was dealing with the tiny minority who had no sense of social responsibility and who would pursue their own interests if they could regardless of the wider public interest.

The farming community were not unreasonable. They did not claim that they of all people in the community should be released from any compulsory powers. It was entirely irrational and indefensible in principle to suggest that if a farmer in doing what he wanted to do on his own land was made subject to some legal sanction then, however injurious what he might be doing was to the public interest, that was unreasonable coercion.

The Earl of Avon, a Lord in Waiting, said the Government believed that what it was doing was realistic and that the voluntary system was working. That was why the Department of the Environment, in particular, was happy to see the way ahead without a compulsory order being necessary.

The Government remained steadfastly opposed to the amendment.

The amendment was rejected by 97 votes to 91—Government majority, six.

An Opposition amendment providing for the submission to Parliament by Secretaries of State of an annual report on the way decisions or actions by ministers and public bodies had been modified by the duties imposed by the Countryside Act 1968 and the Countryside (Scotland) Act 1967 to have regard to the desirability of conserving the natural beauty, amenity, wild flora, fauna, geological and physiographic features of the countryside, was rejected by 97 votes to 83—Government majority, 14.

Parliamentary notices

House of Commons
Today at 2.30: Proceedings on the Consolidated Fund (No 2) Bill.

House of Lords
Today at 2.30: Companies (No 3) Bill, committee (first day).

Government may act on garage servicing

If a strengthened code of practice was not forthcoming from the Motor Agents' Association, following the Consumer Association's report on garage servicing, the Government would have to consider alternatives, Mrs Sally Oppenheim, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, said during questions.

Sir Frederick Burden (Gillingham, C) has asked: Is Mrs Oppenheim taking a interest in this matter? She should do her best to ensure effective regulations are brought into being by the motor manufacturers because there is undoubtedly grace concern among the public at the way in which they are beink taken for a rotten ride by some repair units in the industry.

Mrs Oppenheim: I agree, and I was particularly disappointed at the time that the Motor Agents' Association published reaction to the Consumer Association's report was not more constructive.

I hope, however, acceptance by them of the many criticisms in the association's report will be reflected in a strengthened code of practice, currently being negotiated, and such a code of practice will be widely observed. If it is not, clearly we will have to consider what alternatives might be applicable.

Mr Ioan Evans (Aberdare, Lab): This Government in the budget has hit the motorist by 20p on a gallon, and put up the road fund licence. It should take some action to defend the motorist.

Mrs Oppenheim: The question is about garage servicing.

Mr Alan Clarke (Plymouth, Sutton, C): The Motor Agents' Association has absolutely no concern with anything outside the narrow self-interest of its own membership. It regards the public as a golden goose to be alternately plucked and stuffed. (Laughter.)

Mrs Oppenheim: Mr Clarke has expressed a characteristically *robust* point of view, but I fear this is a view which is shared by all too many members of the public as a result of their experience. That is why I have said that I hope there will be a strengthened code of practice negotiated. I hope it will be widely observed and if it is not I repeat we will have to consider what alternatives might be appropriate.

Mr John Fraser, an Opposition spokesman on consumer protection (Lambeth, Norwood, Lab): We look forward to the time she is no longer a spectator, but intervenes in this matter, bearing in mind the enormous amount of evidence of abuse by garages, both on sales and servicing. There is a case for statutory powers to intervene.

Mrs Oppenheim: At a time when the Director General of Fair Trading is having negotiations with the motor industry on this point it would be premature for me to make a more definitive observation on the already fairly definitive one I have already made.

Mr Fraser: There is nothing like mentioning action to make the negotiations easier, not more difficult.

Mrs Oppenheim: I would have thought that was precisely what I had done.

Unfairness in credit 'red lining'

The practice of "red lining"—credit restrictions covering certain areas—was criticized in questions to Mrs Sally Oppenheim, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs.

Mr Clive Soley (Hammersmith, North, Lab) said that recently in his constituency the whole of an estate was red-lined by a particular company until the local newsppaer took it up.

Mrs Oppenheim: Until a recent report on the subject I thought red-lining was some sort of practice involving local Labour parties ruling our certain parliamentary candidates. (Laughter.)

I am now aware, as a result of the report, that this is a valid consumer problem.

I would hope that all decisions on whether nor not to offer credit, are based on sound commercial judgements and that a person's creditworthiness should be determined on his or her merits.

It has been argued that debt collection can be particularly hazardous where there is persistent violence. This does not rule out consideration that this would be unfiar to the individual consumer.

Coal wanted but price far too high

The United Kingdom had a crude surplus of £369m on trade with the rest of the EEC in January 1981 compared with deficits of £218m in January 1979, and £20m in January 1980, Mr Cecil Parkinson, Minister of State for Trade, said.

Mr David Knox (Leeds, C): By what percentage has the value of exports from Britain to the EEC increased since we joined?

Mr Parkinson (South Hertfordshire, C): On average the annual rate since we joned has been 28 per cent and the figure for exports to the rest of the world has been 19 per cent.

Mr Douglas Jay (Wandsworth, Battersea, North, Lab): The EEC would have bought just as much oil from the United Kingdom if we had not joined, and would continue to do so if we withdrew.

Mr Parkinson: I could not possibly argue with that, but the proportion of imports from the EEC which we covered by exports has been growing substantially, from 80 per cent in 1979 to 88 per cent in 1980, so that it is not true to say that the *whole matter depends on oil*.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Golsover, Lab): What steps will the Minister take to ensure that coal currently stocked in the United Kingdom is used to a greater extent inside the Common Market?

We seem to have spent a lot of our money on goods from the Common Market. They seem to import considerable amounts from the Third World.

Apart from the agreement achieved by the miners showing their muscle recently, what steps has he taken to ensure that more British coal is sold inside the Common Market?

Mr Parkinson: That is an important point. There is strong worldwide demand for coal and a number of ministers from inside and outside the Common Market have seen me asking about the possibility of buying British coal.

The problem is that the price is far too high because the coal industry supports too many unprofitable pits. There is no shortage of demand for coal. We just have to get the price right.

Giveaway budget would have meant return to treadmill of past mistakes–Mr Prior

Those who asked for a giveaway in the budget, something to boost demand at a time of deep world recession, were asking the Government to get on the old treadmill in pricing themselves out of goods and services in exports and import substitution and to make all the same mistakes that had been made in the past, Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, said when the budget debate was resumed.

The vast majority of the people in Britain had not expected or wanted a reflationary *budget*, he added.

Mr Prior (Lowestoft, C) said the Chancellor had introduced a very tough budget at a critical and difficult time for the country. He did not know anyone who had realistically expected anything other than a very hard budget this year. Despite the recession there were still a great many inflationary tendencies in the economy. The level of earnings was still rising considerably faster than the level of prices. Both the level of public spending and money *supply testified* to the fact that inflationary pressures were still around.

He had not seen any informed comment which did not accept that a hard budget was necessary.

In 1978-79 the PSBR was doubled, a lot more money was pushed into the economy and the result was that they encouraged *a* massive flood of imports with *practically no change in the level* of unemployment. No one, except a few Labour MPs, believed that was any answer to the problems.

To go down that course (he said) would be to enact the recurrent cancer of the British economy since the war, steadily debilitating our capacity to compete even in the boom years. Against a background of the worst world recession for half a century it would be fatal.

Even if the Government was willing to resort to the dangerous expedient of a substantial devaluation to try to ease the impact such inflation would have on trade it could not work because oil and energy resources had put a stop to all that.

It was bound to be a pretty tough budget. Tough budgets were never popular. It was sadly inevitable that a tough budget in a time of severe recession would be particularly unpopular because everyone, industry, trade unionists, taxpayers and those dependent on state benefits felt the pinch more at such a time and understandbly looked to the Government for help.

Recognizing the disappointment, that did not mean that the vast majority of people expected or wanted a reflationary budget. They did not.

They knew that necessary changes in the economic position and competitive position were taking place and that many hard decisions about the uncompetitive state of much of British industry, building up for years were now going on. He would not necessarily talk about a new realism; he would say there were many signs that an old realism was beginning to come back.

Changes in working practices, five years ago thought to be impossible, were going on the shop floor. *There had been a* noticeable moderation in pay settlements; the average in private industry in the period since the early autumn had been at a level of less than 10 per cent, in many cases they had been much lower than that and in some many workers had taken no pay increase at all.

Strikes were at a low level. This spoke volumes for the sense and stability of working people.

In many areas Britain's unit costs were at last beginning to *move in the same direction* as those of her main competitors.

If we were to relax now (he said) and say that enough is enough and that we have taken the medicine and now we can just relax again our competitors would run away from us.

There were signs at the moment that the recession was beginning to bottom out. (Loud Labour laughter). There were a number of signs from various parts of Britain, in the North-West and West Midlands, if one looked at the latest CBI forecast. There was other evidence from the longer-term economic indicators which supported that view.

It was significant that nearly all the speeches made by Conservative MPs in the course of the three-day debate had devoted themselves to the need to help industry in any way possible. It was right that the Government should give top priority to industry and help it in every way.

Mr Ronald Leighton (Newham, North-East, Lab): Can he guarantee that when we get next year's budget the unemployment figure will be significantly lower?

Mr Prior: No I cannot guarantee that. There is bound to be when the economy recovers an enormous increase in Britains productivity. Well after the recession has finished and we are starting to climb back into greater production the numbers of unemployed will continue to rise. I cannot give him the indications he would like.

The Government wanted to give top priority to industry and in the clamour of the last few days MPs should not forget what had already been done. A number of measures had already been taken to help industry in this budget and in the past weeks. The Government was giving industry what help it was able to give at a difficult time for the economy.

The minimum lending rate had fallen by 5 per cent since November. Britain's interest rates were falling at a time when nearly every other country's interest rates were rising and taken over a period of three months, Britain's interest rates were now lower than those of America, Germany, France, and many other countries.

Since the interest rate was perhaps one of the most important factors in getting production and the economy going again, the Government should take credit for the fact that it had been able to reduce the rate by 4 per cent in the last four months.

Another factor to some extent tied to this was the exchange rate. That was now about 5 per cent lower than it was at its peak at the end of January, and to that extent both these factors were operating now in the right direction.

The new stock relief scheme would add £180m to industry this year and £450m next year.

The enterprise package for small businesses including the loan guarantee, raising of the VAT threshold and changes in tax reform were only part of the 50 new measures the Government had introduced in two years to help small firms. In addition it had set up the enterprise zones. This was where many of the new jobs so desperately needed would have to come from.

All the Government was doing for small businesses would be of enormous aid in creating new jobs.

Little credit for the Government's recognition of the need to cushion some industries from the effects of recession had been given in the debate. The changes which accompanied recession were difficult for a number of companies, particularly some nationalized companies, where the changes ought to have been made over the past 20 years and had not been.

Two examples where the Government had helped to bring about change and where if it had not done so there would have been serious unemployment problems were British Leyland and Rolls-Royce.

If the country over the past few years had increased its productivity and produced the right goods at the right time the Linwoods of this country would never have been closed. (Conservative cheers.)

For too long (he said) we have sat back and thought everyone else was going to owe us a living. To think we could get out of the situation by reflating the economy would drive us straight back to the problems which we have had.

We will continue to increase the help to industry and to individuals wherever and whenever we can.

The increased expenditure for the special employment measures, for BL and for Rolls-Royce and for the nationalized industries, was approximately the same figure the Government was having to raise by extra taxation this coming year.

The Government had a justifiable case for saying that the extra money having to be raised from difficult and painful taxation was at least going to help sustain employment and investment in a number of vital industries.

Not enough had been going into investment, either public sector or private. The country had been spending and consuming that which it had not earned, and at the same time had been partly consuming other people's goods as well.

Those in jobs were enjoying prosperity at the expense of the jobs and investment which came for tomorrow. To bring about a change in that position was one of the main thrusts of the present budget strategy.

Virtually all commentators had dismissed the Opposition case as being disastrous. Put bluntly, it was to spend; borrow, print, and when that did not work out, to put on a prices and incomes policy to keep the lid on. This was the Opposition's case in a nutshell, so it was hardly surprising nobody paid any attention.

Remedies over the last 20 years were not on offer today, not in any country which believed in high employment, prosperity and an increasing standard of life. Countries with a much greater record of success than Britain were also running into trouble.

The country understood that an easy choice was not open to the Government, even if the Opposition *did* not. The Government understood what it was demanding from the country. It was in no doubt that today's sacrifices must be seen to be fully worth while in years to come.

As the pick-up in the economy came, unions, management and the Government had to respond in the right way. They had to turn their minds to how best to foster that response to ensure their chances were not let slip.

The Chancellor had had to introduce a tough budget. The policies of the Opposition would be disastrous (Conservative cheers).

Great firms reeling under Government's lash

Mr Eric Varley, chief Opposition spokesman on employment (Chesterfield, Lab) said they had just listened to a speech telling them what Mr Prior really did not think about the budget.

One would not think that Mr Prior was among a large faction who had been leaking opposition to the basis of this budget to any journalist they could get their hands on. Not that there were many journalists easily available these days, as most had been corralled into the press room to 10 Downing Street in almost continuous session to be told on the part of the Prime Minister how gutless her cabinet colleagues were.

In the House, there had scarcely been a speech *from Conservative* backbenchers in support of the budget. The Anger of the TUC had been accompaied by the despair of the CBI.

The CBI President, Sir Raymond Pennock, had said this was not the business budget which had been expected. The City had shown is disapproval by the heavy fall in The Financial Times index.

Inflation was now 3 per cent higher than the rates Mrs Thatcher inherited. This budget would add another 2 per cent. Rent rises, fuel increases and rate rises were still to come. What a price the nation had to pay for the Government's obsessive subjugation of every other aspect of economic life to the mystical objective of controlling money supply.

The cost to the nation would be appalling even if policies succeeded. The polcies had failed, and this budget was a confession of that failure.

The price the nation had to pay was appalling. There had been the extraorindary feature of prices being deliberately pushed up by o Government whose aim yas to control and reduce inflation.

When Labour left office the price of a gallon of four-star petrol was 84p; now the average price was £1.55p, an increase of 71p in 23 months.

The Government's dtliberate deflation had pushed the country into the worst slump the y had kno wnfor half a century. Since Labour left offi ceindustrial investment had fallen by 8 per cent and production in manufacturing industry by 14 per cent. Those firms dustry by 14 per cent. Those firms dealing in bankruptcies, liquidations and company failures had become Britain's only growth industry.

The record was just as grim for the companies that had managed to stagger on somehow. Some of the greatest names in British industry were reeling under the lash of the Government's policies.

One of the greatest hopes for the future, International Computers Ltd, was in desperate straits. How that company must wish it still has the protection of partnership of the National Enterprise Board.

Fisons in the second half of last year went into deficit. Lucas Industries suffered pre-tax losses in the last financial year. ICI has gone into loss and entered its worst trading year since the 1930s.

These (he said) are the sombre achievements of a Government which promises in its first Queen's speech to create a climate in which commerce and industry could flourish. (Labour cheers.)

All over the country the Government's policies had taken their toll in a grim rollcall of unemployment which was more than million up on the level two years ago. Once prosperous areas lived under the shadow of unemployment.

Mrs Thatcher has succeeded in creating one nation, a nation sorrowfully united by the affliction of mass unemployment. The unemployment was biting deep: 21 per cent of all unemployed men had been out of work for more than a year and 40 per cent of unemployed men and 36 per cent of unemployed women had been out of work for more than six months.

If there is one feature of the horrifying unemployment more shameful than any other (he said) it is unemployment among young people. Under this Government, unemployment among school leavers has increased by 230 per cent.

If there is one thing for which this Prime Minister will never be forgiven it is the blighting of so many young lives.

Mrs Thatcher, during her premiership, had inflicted great damage on the country, but none of it had been so unacceptable as the waste of a generation.

In his first bombastic budget two years ago, Sir Geoffrey Howe had said that the reduction in income tax had been as substantial as they were unprecedented. Very little, if anything, remained of those reductions.

The Prime Minister had taken to standing with her hand on her hip and delivering little moralistic lectures to the nation. The latest had been last Wednesday when she made *The Guardian* businessman award, stamped her feet and had a public tantrum.

She had said that the nation had to pay more tax in order to be able to spend more on health, but they were spending 20 per cent more on tax and 2 per cent more on health.

Taxation was going up while expenditure on education was £650m down since Labour left office; and spending on Department of Industry support schemes was 30 per cent down from Labour's final year. Housing expenditure had been cut by £1,600m.

What dishonesty (he said). What deception. (Labour cheers.)

We are paying more in taxation: billions of pounds more, but the nation is being taxed in order to finance unemployment. The increase in unemployment since this Government came to office has cost the nation £6,000m a year.

In cash terms it was impossible to measure the indignity, misery, and human degradation. How much better to use the £6,000m on education, housing, industrial support, creating jobs, and reviving hope for those in despair.

The Opposition would vote against the budget because the Government was squandering financial resources and destroying human resources.

Tory crosses floor to join Social Democrats

Mr *Norman St John-Stevas* (Chelmsford, C), the former Leader of the House, said he would congratulate the Chancellor of the Exchequer that on the basis of its own terms, the budget was an exercise in intellectual consistency and rigour (Labour laughter), and on his courage.

I must (he continued) enter a caveat at once. I was astonished and horrified to see what is in effect a retrospective levy on bank profits. (Conservative cheers.) That tax is wholly inconsistent with the main thrust of this Government's economic policy, which is to legitimize once again the notion of profit. It constitutes a sacrifice of principle to expediency.

He did not quarrel with the excise duties which had been raised. There was a clear economic case for the increase in tax on drink and tobacco, and even petrol, but he followed the anxiety of so many Conservative MPs.

After all (he said) we are in politics, not in economics, and there are limits to the burdens that any party can place upon those natural supporters in the country. The Tory Party is still rooted in the land of the countryside and it is on that constituency that a disproportionate share of the burden is going to fall.

He accepted that there must be a broad consistency between fiscal and monetary policy, but there could not be an exact relationship between them. Looking back to the forecasts in the last budget about a PSBR of £8,500m one saw the impossibility of treating that part of economics as an exact science. (Laughter.)

He feared that there might be a repetition of history, that industry *would not be sufficiently stimulated*, that unemployment would increase, the budget deficit would rise, there would be less revenues and the country whould have not a virtuous circle but a vicious circle.

He would have welcomed a reduction in the national insurance surcharge which amounted to a poll tax.

The Chancellor should consider a programme to be initiated later this year to put more demand from capital investment into the economy. He should at least not close the door on schemes intended to increase expenditure on private and public capital.

There was a wide range of measures on which this money could be spent, such as the electrification of the railways, improvement to the water systems, conservation of energy and other capital projects like the Channel tunnel and the new British Library, which was going to be of great importance to Britain's future in the development of information technology.

Many Conservative MPs were uneasy about the wisdom of seeming to base a whole economic strategy on a single set of monetary aggregates of dubious reliability. Of course control of the money supply was one of the weapons at the Government's disposal to promote a prosperous economy. It was one, but there were others. The promotion of investment; the moderation of wage claims.

Of course inflation was a moral as well as an economic evil. It undermined confidence in the financial institutions and ultimately the *political institutions*, but unemployment was a moral evil, too.

One could not dispose of this problem by the simple statement *that if inflation was conquered*, Britain's employment problems would be solved. *If inflation* was conquered it would make it easier to solve employment problems, but very much more had to be done in this sphere.

It was not sensible morally nor economically to speak as though the Government could somehow pursue one economic aim to the exclusion of all human and social values. Man was a moral being first and an economic being second and of all parties, the *Tory Party should be the first* to recognize that.

We do recognize it (he said) but do *not* always speak as though we did. Not the least of the responsibilities resting upon our economic ministers is to find a means of demonstrating that we do care about unemployment and do intend to take measures to reduce it.

Mr Christopher Brocklebank-Fowler (North-West Norfolk, C) said that during the 1979 election he had fought on the basis of the *Conservative Party manifesto* which among other things promised substantial reductions in taxation, the control of inflation, the creation of genuine new jobs in an expanding economy, temporary and tapered help for firms in difficulty and that they would ensure that agricultural industries remained profitable and competitive.

In addition to those general promises he had promised his own electorate in a personal letter to fight in Parliament issues which were *important locally* and to work for electoral and parliamentary reform so that government became more responsive to people's needs.

What had been the Government's record in keeping those promises? Taxation *had* generally *increased* during its tenure of office. For the first time in 10 years there was to be no increase in personal allowances. There had been an equivalent increase in direct taxes of about 15 per cent.

By the Government's own admission a further 10,000 people had entered the poverty trap. The Government's failure to achieve its own cuts in public expenditure held out little hope for substantial *tax cuts during the life of this* Parliament.

He recalled that a distinguished predecessor who represented King's Lynn in the mid-nineteenth century, after eight years of silence in the House, having supported Canning and then Reel, backed Disraeli in his campaign to become a great reforming Prime Minister of "one nation".

I propose (he said) to follow his radical example in the pursuit of change and to seek to join the Council for Social Democracy where I hope to help form a new party and to develop a programme for stability, national unity and national renewal which I judge to be vital if our country is to become truly one nation at home and is to play a leading part in international efforts to solve the problems of poverty, malnutrition and disease which afflict a wholly unacceptable proportion of mankind on whose prosperity we depend so much for our own future. (Labour cheers.)

Mr Brocklebank-Fowler then crossed the floor of the House to take his seat among the Social Democrats on the Opposition front bench below the gangway.

Trade in strong position

Britain's current trade position is strong and this reflected in no small way the fine achievements of her exporters, Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, said during a question on the current levels of imports and exports.

Mr Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington, C) said: The corporate public wailing of the CBI seems to be in marked contrast to the privately expressed views of many of its members, high numbers of whom are importers of raw material, who find benefit in the strong pound.

It is strange, bearing in mind that the Labour Party won the 1964 election on wailing about an £800m deficit, that we have never heard anything from them about the situation in January when our balance of payments surplus was £957m.

Mr Biffen (Oswestry, C): I am sure that the Labour Party will use this question as an occasion to join with us in congratulating our exporters on their magnificent performance. There is no doubt that the strong pound does bring advantages in respect of raw material imports, but we would be wise to bear in mind that it has an impact on export performance generally.

Mr Enoch Powell (South Down, Off UU): Is there any sound economic reason for seeking now to increase further the suplus in our balance of trade?

Mr Biffen: I would not have thought so.

New law coming on shipping registration

There was no evidence of widespread abuse of the system of provisional registration for shipping, but it was intended to introduce new legislation as soon as possible after the general review of the registration provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, had been completed, Mr Reginald Eyre, Under Secretary for Trade said.

Mr James Johnson (Kingston upon Hull, West, Lab) had asked for an inquiry into the system of provisional registration of shipping following the abuses revealed in the case of the Tiger Bay, which ran aground on a voyage to Riga in the winter of 1980.

Mr Eyre (Birmingham, Hall Green, C) said that the facility of provisional registration was under examination as part of the general review of the registration provisions of the 1894 Act.

Mr Johnson: This legislation allows registration without inspection or survey. Is not this tantamount to a flag of convenience under our own flag?

Mr Eyre: There is provision under the Merchant Shipping Act for the master to take certain steps if the ship is not seaworthy. We will bear in mind the case of the Tiger Bay but we have no evidence of widespread abuse.

Mr Clinton Davis, an Opposition spokesman on trade (Hackney, Central, Lab): The Tiger Bay illustrates the fact that substandard ships can join the British register. When is the law going to be changed to ensure *that permanent and provisional* registration will be conditional upon inspection and survey?

Mr Eyre: The review will take account of all the considerations he mentions.

Rest of the world must also assist Zimbabwe

It must be up to the rest of the world as well as Britain to help Zimbabwe, Mr Neil Marten, Minister for Overseas Development, said during questions.

Mr Dennis Canavan (West Stirlingshire, Lab) had asked what recent representations had been received about further aid for Zimbabwe.

Mr Marten (Banbury, C): We are in close touch with the Zimbabwe Government about all aspects of our aid programme.

As regards people in this country, I have received a number of letters urging the provision of further aid to Zimbabwe and a similar number suggesting that we have already done too much.

Mr Canavan: In view of the need for a multi-million pound development programme in Zimbabwe and the lofty promises that Britain made at the Lancaster House conference, will the minister increase the miserable offer that the Government has made so far?

If the Treasury really is bankrupt, why not demand that the oil companies, including BP, give back to the Zimbabwe Government the millions of pounds of profit they made by breaking sanctions against the illegal Smith regime?

Mr Marten: The latter part of his question is beyond the scope of this question. I do not agree with the former part, because we have given £75m in aid, £14m in training on education and £7m on aid trade provision, which is £96m, plus £22m forgiveness of debt relief and £33m of debt rescheduled. We are also giving military assistance.

That is not a bad record. It must be up to the rest of the world also to help Zimbabwe.

Mr Paul Dean (North Somerset, C): In view of the severe difficulties Zimbabwe faces, would Mr Marten recognize it would be wise to be generous now on the *principle* that if one gives prompt aid now it will do most good and bring the best return?

Mr Marten: Yes, I am sympathetic to the line he has taken, but we must await the results of the donors' conference to which the Lord President of the Council (Lord Soames) is going to represent this country.

Mr Guy Barnett, an Opposition spokesman on overseas development (Greenwich, Lab): The Zimbabwe Government reckon it *is in the next three years that* the job needs to be done and therefore generous aid is needed during the next three years in the hope that they can stand on their own feet after that.

Mr Marten: We are considering further money. This will have to await the outcome of the donors' conference. I agree that aid for the next three years is what is needed.

Mr Christopher Brocklebank-Fowler (North-West Norfolk, C) *asked for a further statement on* the likely level of disbursement of aid to Zimbabwe in the current financial year.

Mr Marten: It is too soon to tell precisely how much we shall spend in aid to Zimbabwe in this financial year, but we expect the total to be about £14.5m.

Mr Brocklebank-Fowler: Would he consider making further funds available in the coming year to existing Zimbabweans currently at school in Britain to enable them to continue their education at British universities later this year?

Mr Marten: These are matters which are under consideration.

Mr Kevin McNamara (Kingston upon Hull, Central, Lab): The western world has a great deal at stake in the success of Mr Mugabe's government.

It is regrettable that the minister is not able to give a more positive indication of the extra assistance which is to be given by the Government at the donors' conference.

Mr Marten: It is customary to announce at the donors' conference what aid, if any, one is going to give, and not before.

More talks on flags of convenience

More foreign owned ships were registered in Britain than British-owned ships were registeed overseas, Mr Reginald Eyre, Under Secretary for Trade, said.

Mr Clinton Davis (Hackney, Central, Lab) had asked if the Secretary of State for Trade intended to raise the issue of flags of convenience at the next meeting of the European Council of Transport Ministers.

Mr Eyre (Birmingham, Hall Green, C): Open registries were discussed at the last European Community Transport Council in November at the instance of the Federal Republic of Germany. They will now be considered further by the Council of Transport working group.

Mr Davis: What action is the British Government proposing? The Liberian shipowners are soliciting laws to resist the attack on flags of convenience.

Will he support the initiative by the Federal Republic of Germany and others to phase out the attack on British and other shipping?

Mr Eyre: Any abuses of flags of *convenience should be considered* with a view to elimination. The work of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization was valuable in that respect.

Mr Richard Mitchell (Southampton, Itchen, Lab): If there is another war, shall we not need more ships?

Mr Eyre: During the period 1965-79 the open registry share of world shipping increased from 14 per cent to 28 per cent, but that has levelled out in the past three years.

There is now more foreign-owned shipping registered in the United Kingdom than United Kingdom shipping registered under foreign flags.

Transfer payments

Mr Leon Brittan, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, in a written reply, said: In 1980-81 it is estimated that transfer payments of all kinds will account for some 44 per cent of the public expenditure planning total.

Cricket

West Indian bowlers want to be a hit with the bat as well

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Bridgetown, March 16

With less than five weeks of the tour of the West Indies remaining the chances are that Ken Barrington's place as assistant manager will not be filled, though a final decision on this may not be made for a day or two. Barrington's main cricketing function, in which he involved himself so wholeheartedly, was to organize the team's practice. Alan Smith, the manager, and Geoff Miller, the vice-captain, will now do more of that.

Also out here until the end of the fourth Test match in Antigua are Peter Lush, one of the assistant secretaries of the Test and County Cricket Board, who can lend an administrative hand where necessary, and Charles Elliott, who, as Barrington was, is an England selector. Alec Bedser, chairman of the selectors with a wide experience of tour management, is due to leave for home at the end of the week after a fortnight in Barbados.

Should it be decided that further help of a coaching kind is needed, Don Wilson, who has been bowling in the nets here, or Ray Illingworth, who is also in Barbados to watch the third Test match, could be asked to stay on. Wilson is senior coach at the indoor cricket school at Lord's. David Brown, now Warwickshire's manager, is another possibility; he was on the telephone to Mr Smith this morning, but that was mainly about Warwickshire matters.

The two captains, Ian Botham and Clive Lloyd, both paid tribute to Barrington this morning. Referring to him as a "very close friend" Botham said how much he owed to him. "He was genuinely excited about the prospects of our side", he added, "and I only hope his hopes and wishes will be fulfilled." Botham thought that "in all the circumstances" his side did a good job yesterday.

Lloyd, who described Barrington as "a lovely fellow", hopes for a lead of 500 when the match resumes tomorrow (West Indies are already 388 ahead with five wickets standing) and expects the bounce to stay in the pitch. "Now that Croft (Saturday's nightwatchman) has made some runs all my bowlers want a hit," he said.

Lloyd reckons Holding to have bowled two yards faster at times in this series than ever before—and says that he himself feels in better batting form than for a long time. As for Richards, Lloyd had not seen him more determined than he was yesterday or show greater application in the nets before the start. In his previous eight innings on the Bridgetown pitch Richards's highest score had been 38, which must to some extent be an indictment of the conditions.

Among Trinidadians there was a feeling that Richards displayed unreasonable selfishness in refusing singles, so that he could reach his 100 before yesterday's close of play, and in running out Gomes—but then Gomes is a Trinidadian and there is as much inter-territorial rivalry here as there is between the states of Victoria and New South Wales.

The English bowler whom Lloyd thinks would have been best suited by the pitch is Old, who is not playing. On reflection Dilley, who bowled yesterday without the fire of previous days, was probably worse affected than anyone by the stunning loss of Barrington, who had always given him such encouragement. My own view now is that England will do well to take the match beyond mid-afternoon on Wednesday.

Asked how he felt his own batsmen would fare against Croft, Garner, Holding and Roberts on this Kensington pitch, Lloyd said it would be "interesting" to find out. At the end of the present series there may be a match along these lines, played in Jamaica, provided the right sponsorship can be found. The idea is to "award" the side with the bowlers in it a total of 250 and for the batsmen to try to do better in 50 overs.

It would have given England's batsmen, as they await tomorrow's [illegible] with the West Indian fast bowlers, no pleasure to hear Lloyd say that the pitch at Sabina Park where this "challenge" match would be played is faster than the one on which England were bowled out on Saturday for 122. What Sabina Park does have, though, is a truer, less perpendicular bounce, which should make batting there against genuine speed a less perilous business.

Test match scoreboard

WEST INDIES: First Innings, 265 (C. H. Lloyd 100, H. A. Gomes 58; I. T. Botham 4 for 77, G. R. Dilley 3 for 51, R. D. Jackman 3 for 65).

Second innings

C. G. Greenidge, lbw, b Dilley	0
D. L. Haynes, lbw, b Botham	25
C. E. H. Croft, [illegible]	33
I. V. A. Richards, not out	102
E. H. Mattis, c Butcher, b Jackman	24
H. A. Gomes, run out	34
C. H. Lloyd, not out	19
Extras (b 3, l-b 5)	8
Total (5 wkts)	245

BOWLING (to date): Dilley, [illegible]

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—0, 2—57, [illegible]

ENGLAND: First Innings 122 [illegible]



Holding: bowling faster in this series than ever before, according to his captain.

Australia confirm policy

Melbourne, March 16.—The Australian Cricket Board today reaffirmed their opposition to tours of South Africa. In a terse statement they said they would not organize a tour and would not approve any. The statement by the executive director David Richards followed the cancellation at the weekend of a proposed tour of South Africa by Australian club cricketers.

In the statement Mr Richards said the ACB reaffirmed their policy on South Africa at a meeting here on Friday. "The board is mindful that the Australian government subscribes to the 1977 Gleneagles Agreement", he said. "The board respects the government's policy and will neither undertake nor can approve any cricket tour of South Africa."

The statement added: "At the July, 1981, meeting of the International Cricket Conference the board will expect its delegates to be fully informed on the progress being made towards non-racial cricket in South Africa."

NZ hoping for showers

Auckland, March 16.—After three dry days, the New Zealand cricketers could be favoured by a change in the weather when the third Test against India is resumed tomorrow after a rest day today. The weather forecast predicts showers or humid weather, conditions which would suit the New Zealand seam bowlers.

SCORES: India 238 (S. M. H. Kirmani 78; [illegible]); New Zealand 331 for 8 (J. G. Wright 110, J. F. Reid 74, J. V. Coney 65).

Motor racing

More legal fireworks awaiting Lotus

By John Blunsden

With or without skirts, the Williams-Ford FW07s of the Saudia Leyland team are still at the forefront of Grand Prix racing. That was the clear message delivered on Sunday by Alan Jones and Carlos Reutemann, who took complete control of the United States Grand Prix West at Long Beach.

Even last year's clear winner, Nelson Piquet, had to give them best this time. Although his Brabham-Ford BT49 finished a creditable third, Piquet was unable to sustain his challenge for the lead once the race had settled into a pattern.

The surprise of practice had been the pace of Riccardo Patrese and his Arrows, and the Italian made good use of his pole position to lead for the first 25 laps of this eighty-and-a-half-lap race. Then he slowed with damaged suspension, Reutemann slipped past, and soon after, Jones, having recovered from what he admitted had been a dreadful start from second place on the grid, moved past his team partner on lap 32 and led for the remainder of the race, with Reutemann slotted in comfortingly behind him.

It proved to be a disappointing first 1981 race for the former FISA-aligned teams, Mario Andretti achieving their only significant placing when he brought his Alfa Romeo through to fourth place after a fine battle with Eddie Cheever's Tyrrell. Earlier, his partner, Bruno Giacomelli, suffered a bruised left wrist when he collided with Jan Lammers' ATS, both cars being eliminated just after half-distance.

Neither Ferrari lasted the race. Gilles Villeneuve's was the first to go, with transmission trouble, on lap 19; Didier Pironi, who had driven a characteristically hard race, dropped out on the 67th lap when running fourth.

The McLaren team's effort effectively ended on lap 16, when John Watson stopped with brake problems: both Nigel Mansell and Elio de Angelis ended up with bent cars after only a third of the race gone. This completed a disastrous weekend for the Lotus chief, Colin Chapman, whose revolutionary twin-chassis Type 88 had been ruled out of order during the final practice and black-flagged off the track.

That the legality of the car was challenged by other teams was not surprising, nor that Mr Chapman should appeal when the race stewards upheld the challenge. The surprise was that the car should be set on the sidelines pending the appeal. There is certain to be more legal fireworks over the next 10 days as the Lotus team seek to run their car in the Brazilian Grand Prix on Sunday week.

The Long Beach results, with British-based teams taking all but two of the finishing positions—and all cars had used similar Michelin tyres—tends to support the view that not much has changed with the new rules. In California, the cars were about two seconds a lap slower than they had been last year with skirts. They were probably more difficult to drive, judging by the number which made contact with walls over the three days. But at the end of the day, the champions were still in charge, and surely there was justice in that.

RESULTS: 1, A. Jones (Williams-Ford), 80 laps, [illegible]; 2, C. Reutemann (Williams-Ford), 80 laps; 3, N. Piquet (Brabham-Ford), 80 laps; 4, M. Andretti (Alfa Romeo), 80 laps; 5, E. Cheever (Tyrrell-Ford), 80 laps; 6, P. Tambay (Theodore-Ford), 79 laps; 7, C. Serra (Fittipaldi-Ford), 78 laps; 8, R. Arnoux (Renault), 76 laps; 9, M. Surer (Ensign-Ford), 70 laps; 10, D. Pironi (Ferrari), 66 laps (not running at finish). World Championship: Drivers: 1, Jones, 9 pts; 2, Reutemann, 6; 3, Piquet, 4; 4, Andretti, 3; 5, Cheever, 2; 6, Tambay, 1. Constructors: 1, Williams-Ford, 15; 2, Brabham-Ford, 4; 3, Alfa Romeo, 3; 4, Tyrrell-Ford, 2; 5, Theodore-Ford, 1.

Rugby League

Warrington and Widnes attract like a magnet

By Keith Macklin

If the number of bruises dished out between them in cup ties in recent seasons could be translated into pound notes the players of Warrington and Widnes would be wealthy men. The luck of the draw has thrown them together time and again in the Challenge Cup, John Player Trophy and Lancashire Cup, and every match has been a full-blooded encounter with pride, bonuses and local rivalry at stake.

In yesterday's draw for the semi-final round of the Challenge Cup, sponsored by Three Fives, Warrington and Widnes were drawn together yet again, a fact which brought loud sighs of relief from the representatives of Hull Kingston Rovers and St Helens, the other semi-finalists, who are drawn together.

Warrington are the bookmakers' favourites to win this year's Wembley trophy but Widnes were almost invincible in trophy finals during the 70s and in recent weeks they have pieced together their game to such effect that the old-time rhythm has been as effective as ever. Warrington lead the first division whereas Widnes are around halfway, but Widnes will lift themselves for the cup and a close and robust battle is in prospect.

The second favourites and holders, Hull Kingston Rovers, are the sole representatives of any region outside Merseyside and since St Helens are regarded as the least dangerous of the four semi-final teams they can be considered to have had their fourth lucky draw. In the first three rounds they were at home to Barrow, York and Salford. Rovers are recovering from their crippling injury list but St Helens are missing the services of their brilliant young scrum-half Holding. However, in cup semi-finals form cannot be taken too seriously and this game at Headingley will be as close as the one at Central Park.

The ties are: Warrington v Widnes at Wigan on March 28 and St Helens v Hull KR at Headingley on April 4. Club officials of Huddersfield and Wigan were privately conceding over the weekend that their clubs might have to go before a disciplinary committee on charges of bringing the game into disrepute. Several brawls broke out in the game between the sides at Fartown on Sunday and the referee, Vince Moss, sent off six players — three from each side. On two or three occasions more than one fight started in different parts of the pitch, and Rugby League officials last night studied the ITV highlights of the game screened on Granada and Yorkshire TV.

Tennis

Miss Navratilova wins Dallas tournament again

Dallas, March 16.—Martina Navratilova, the No 1 seed, defeated Pam Shriver, the No 3 seed, 6—2, 6—4 yesterday to win a $200,000 tournament in Dallas for the third consecutive year and her fourth victory in six tournaments on the winter circuit. In terms of dominance, this victory was probably her best: she needed less than an hour to win four of her five matches including the final, which lasted 57 minutes.

In the first set Miss Navratilova broke Miss Shriver's service in the first and third games to take a 4—0 lead and held her own service in the sixth and eighth games to take the set 6—2. Miss Navratilova fell behind 2—0 in the second set but broke her opponent's service in the third game and held her own in the fourth to level the score. Miss Navratilova eventually broke service again in the ninth game and then served out the match at 6—4.

Miss Shriver, aged 18, who was making her first appearance in a final on the winter tour, then joined with Miss Navratilova to win the doubles title, 6—2, 6—2, with victory over Anne Smith and Kathy Jordan.—Agencies.

BRUSSELS: Indoor tournament: Final: J. Connors beat P. Gottfried, 6—2, 6—4, 6—3.

OLDSMAR (Florida): Final: M. Purcell beat J. Borowiak 4—6, 6—4, 6—3.

Cycling

Two Williamses give the French a fright

By Michael Coleman

Second place for Jeff Williams in the 80-mile Paris to Ezy race on Sunday, opening event in the French amateur calendar, ought to persuade him to take the plunge and remain riding in the colours of the ACBB Paris the rest of the season.

The attractions of a family job in Cheadle Hulme can be no substitute for the real personal success beckoning the country's top climber. Paris-Ezy ended up a sharp hill and Williams, who is 22, nearly got by Yves Beau of France at the line. Twelve were in the final break from 179 starters.

Close up in ninth place was Russell Williams—no relation—from the VC Londres club, Herne Hill, but now attached to the Val d'Oise, Paris. Unlike his namesake, the London Williams, not 20 until April, has sunk everything into getting a professional contract. Former national junior champion, this is his third season in France.

Indeed, the near-domination of French events by success-seeking young Britons is becoming so commonplace that jokes about *les anglais* are no longer acceptable. Among a score of self-exiled hopefuls now on the Continent, John Herety (23) from Cheadle and Sean Yates (20) from Forest Row, Sussex rode the wheels off the French in early spring races on the Côte d'Azur and seem certain to be offered Peugeot contracts in the late autumn.

Both were in Sunday's race but, being ACBB men, defended Jeff Williams in the break. Discipline and following a team director's orders to the letter is the essence of the Continental game.

Meanwhile, the Paris-Nice professional race is heading for the Mediterranean with Stephen Roche (Dublin) continuing to astonish in his first year as a paid rider. Ex-ACBB, and now with Peugeot, Roche won the Tour of Corsica the week before this "Race to the Sun" as it is termed, holding off Bernard Hinault. Peugeot, top *equipe* on the road this year, have no less than four English-speaking men in their team of 19, Graham Jones (Manchester), Robert Millar (Glasgow) and Phil Anderson (Australia) all backing up Roche and vice versa. It is proving a wise investment.

Nigerians quit: Few will regret the sudden withdrawal of inexperienced Nigeria from next month's Sealink International race from Le Touquet, France to Manchester (April 13-18) because, it is explained, of internal reorganization. John Burns, Sealink race director, brings in Denmark as substitutes and will no doubt remember the Nigerians' badly-timed defection when wearing his other cap next year as director of the world championships here.

PARIS—NICE: Fifth stage: Leading placings: 1, T. Prim (Sweden), 4hr 37min 51sec; 2, D. Arnaud, 4:37.52; 3, F. Van Der Haute (Belgium), 4:37.55; 4, R. Clere, 4:47.59; 5, J. Simon (Belgium); 6, R. De Vlaeminck (Belgium). Overall standings: 1, A. van der Poel (Netherlands), 25hr 43min 37sec; 2, S. Roche (Ireland), at 13sec; 3, A. de Wolf (Belgium), at 25sec; 4, P. Bazzo (France), at 28sec; 5, P. Zijerveld (Netherlands), at 1min 57sec; 6, E. Alfonsel (Spain), at 2min.

Football

Dalglish, the exception to Stein's rigid guidelines

By Stuart Jones

Jock Stein, Scotland's manager, yesterday turned off the pressure cooker and kept the lid firmly on experimentation. His list of ingredients for the World Cup match against Northern Ireland on Wednesday week shows one change from the group of 18 he took to Israel last month. Hartford takes the place of Brazil.

"The squad has been selected with three targets in mind", Mr Stein said: "Our own ambition to qualify, the ambitions of the relevant clubs and pressure on individual players." Ipswich Town, in search of three trophies, and Liverpool, within sight of two, are the clubs concerned and Mr Stein saw no point in picking those with "divided attentions".

The rigid guidelines clearly do not apply to Dalglish, in spite of a slight injury and indifferent international form. Liverpool may travel to Sofia for the second-leg of their European Cup quarter-final round without him but Mr Stein regards him as indispensible. Not so Dalglish's colleagues, Souness, unless Gemmill fails to prove his fitness in two games for Birmingham City this week, and Hansen, who was unable to guarantee his fitness.

Wark, of Ipswich, is also likely to be rested. Mr Stein commented: "It is better to get 100 per cent from players whose only route to success is helping Scotland qualify for the World Cup." Even with 31 goals so far this season from midfield, the "rules" are unlikely to be bent for the man who was voted player of the year by his peers on Sunday night.

Although Scotland's defence has yet to be breached after four hours and a half, their attacking displays have been disappointing, particularly in their only previous home performance against Portugal's "eleven dustbins", as Mr Stein called them, last October. As the Hampden audience is not noted for its patience, much will depend on Dalglish's partners up front.

Robertson, of Nottingham Forest, whose sole remaining ambition is to gain a place in next season's Uefa Cup, will be one. Whether the other one is Andy Gray or Archibald, who won his sixth cap last month after Brazil had dropped out with a chest infection, they can scarcely fail to improve on a record of two goals in three qualifying games.

A draw will be enough to take Scotland, currently second to Portugal on goal difference, to the top of group 6. A victory would be enough for Mr Stein to start planning seriously for an extended stay in Spain next year. "It is all too easy to introduce a young player now but, in a game as important as this, his whole future could be endangered by a bad performance. There is plenty of time to experiment during the home internationals and, providing we qualify, in the eight or 10 games after that", Mr Stein added.

It is then that such young players as Stewart, Hansen and Brazil as well as Strachan, an injured absentee, are likely to be given their chance. They will all be hoping that Mr Stein's forecast proves to be right. In October he regarded Portugal and Sweden as the potential dangers. Northern Ireland, crowned last year as home international champions, may yet change his mind.

SQUAD: A. Rough (Partick), W. Thomson (St Mirren), D. McGrain (Celtic), R. Stewart (West Ham), A. Davison (Rangers), F. Gray (Notts For), K. Burns (Notts For), W. Miller (Aberdeen), A. McLeish (Aberdeen), D. Narey (Dundee Utd), J. Wark (Ipswich), G. Souness (Liverpool), A. Gemmill (Birmingham), A. Hartford (Everton), S. Archibald (Tottenham), K. Dalglish (Liverpool), A. Gray (Wolves), J. Robertson (Notts For). Standby: J. Leighton (Aberdeen), A. Evans (Aston Villa), A. Brazil (Ipswich), J. Jordan (Man Utd).

Eire exclude O'Keefe

The Republic of Ireland have accepted, for the time being, the FIFA ban imposed on Eamon O'Keefe. The manager, Eoin Hand, has omitted the Everton striker from his 22-man party for the World Cup qualifying match in Belgium next week. O'Keefe made his first appearance for Ireland in the 3—1 defeat by Wales last month, but was banned from playing again because he appeared for England in a semi-professional tournament two years ago.

But O'Keefe's banishment may soon be over. The FAI president Brendon Menton said yesterday: "We have accepted FIFA's decision for the time being. But we intend to pursue the matter. We feel there are certain facts which indicate that O'Keefe will be able to play for the Republic again."

Brady, the captain, has been released by Juventus, and O'Leary returns after missing four internationals through injury. Four players, Devine, Stapleton, Lawrenson and Robinson, who missed the Welsh game because of club commitments, also return.

Mr Hand has dropped Holmes and O'Callaghan and there are two places in doubt. Fulham's Peyton and Everton's McDonagh compete for the goalkeeping place.

Peyton was injured for the Wales match and has yet to regain his first team place at Fulham, whereas McDonagh's first appearance last month left much to be desired. Heighway, Givens and Walsh are chasing the third strikers position, alongside Robinson and Stapleton.

Mr Hand says that the Irish need four points from their remaining three games to reach the World Cup finals in Spain next year. Two factors give the Irish hope of obtaining a result against Belgium, runners-up in the 1980 European Championships. Last year the Irish held Belgium comfortably to a 1—1 draw in Dublin and only last month Belgium struggled to beat Cyprus, the weakest team in group two, 3—2.

PARTY: G. Peyton (Fulham), J. McDonagh (Everton), P. Bonner (Celtic), D. Langan (Birmingham), J. Devine (Arsenal), D. O'Leary (Arsenal), M. Lawrenson (Brighton), C. Hughton (Spurs), K. Moran (Man Utd), A. Grimes (Man Utd), J. Anderson (Preston), G. Daly (Coventry), A. Grealish (Luton), L. Brady (Juventus), G. Waddock (QPR), M. Martin (Newcastle), M. Robinson (Brighton), M. Walsh (Porto), F. Stapleton (Arsenal), S. Heighway (Liverpool), D. Givens (Sheffield United), G. Ryan (Brighton).

Liverpool lose Thompson

Phil Thompson, the Liverpool captain, who missed the League Cup Final against West Ham United, is also out of the European Cup quarter-final, second leg tie with CSKA Sofia in Bulgaria tomorrow.

Thompson damaged a thigh muscle during Liverpool's 5—1 first leg win over the Bulgarians and will stay behind for treatment today, when a party of 18 leaves.

Dalglish, Hansen and McDermott were injured on Saturday at Wembley, but the Liverpool manager, Bob Paisley, is optimistic about their chances. Case, Johnson, Rush, Cohen, Whelan, Money and Ogrizovic are added to the team which started in the League Cup final.

Pike could miss West Ham's European Cupwinners' Cup return leg in Russia, against Dynamo Tbilisi.

Pike hurt his knee at Wembley and Paul Allen, whose own injury is responding to injections and treatment, may be recalled. Even if Pike is fit, Allen may be preferred to Neighbour.

Allen, troubled by a trapped nerve in an ankle all season, has played only one European game—in Timisoara in the second round in November. West Ham lost 4—1 against Tbilisi in the first leg.

Newport County believe they can finish off the Carl Zeiss Jena before an 18,000 crowd at Somerton Park tomorrow night in the European Cupwinners' Cup.

In Italy, Juventus and Roma are level on 29 points after winning. Liam Brady scored one of Juventus's two goals against Torino. In Spain, Barcelona squandered an opportunity to close the gap on the league leaders, Atletico Madrid, when they were beaten away to Salamanca. Atletico Madrid also lost, 2—0 away

Stewart joins Rangers

The Scottish international goalkeeper, Jim Stewart, has been transferred from Middlesbrough to Rangers for £115,000. Stewart, twice capped by Scotland, moved to Middlesbrough from Kilmarnock for £100,000 almost three seasons ago but made only 38 first team appearances. Stewart is set to take over as Rangers' first choice goalkeeper, in place of McCloy.

Target for Bangor

Bangor City, attempting to become the first Welsh club to win at Wembley since Cardiff City lifted the FA Cup in 1927, were paired with Sutton United or Aylesbury in yesterday's FA Challenge Trophy semi-final draw.

DRAW: Dartford v Bishop's Stortford; Bangor v Sutton United or Aylesbury. Two-leg ties to be played April 4 and 11.

Rugby Union

Blakeway satisfies the England selectors

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

Philip Blakeway came triumphantly through a searching examination during the England training at the Stourbridge club last night, and he will take his place at tight head prop in the last international of the season, against France at Twickenham, on Saturday. So ended 10 days of speculation about his rugby future after the neck injury he sustained in the Irish match in Dublin 10 days ago.

In making the announcement "Budge" Rogers, the chairman of selectors, said: "Phil is always very impressive, but tonight he was fantastic". We watched him closely in the scrummages and the rucks, and were totally happy about the outcome. We were all very worried a week or so ago, and I'm sure Phil must have shared our fears, too. His presence in the side will be excellent for morale, and if we can take the scrummage to the French—which is something they don't often like—and carry it through to the mauling and driving I'm sure we can win and share the championship". The captain, Bill Beaumont, echoed all this and simply added: "It's great to have him there again. He's such a vital cog."

Blakeway himself said that he was absolutely delighted: "In fact," he added, "if they'd decided to pick me, I could have played for Gloucester in the John Player Cup last Saturday."

The specialist verdict of his orthopaedic surgeon, Mr Ray Davies, that there was no reason why he should not continue playing, must have given him just the confidence he needed. But he still had to prove things for himself and the selectors. A cut eye and a slight twinge in the back did not stop him from scrummaging in his finest form against an eight made up from Gordon Sargent, Steve Mills, Jeffrey Bell, Paul Rendall, John Fidler, Steve Boyle, Mike Rafter, Bob Hesford and Phil Moss.

England's reserves for the French game will be "Dusty" Hare, Nick Preston, Nick Youngs, Rendall, Mills and Hesford. The Wasps' prop, Rendall, who is 27, and was formerly with the Slough club, has jumped the queue ahead of several players, including Sargent and Austin Sheppard, because of his ability to play on either side of the front row.

After the misfortunes in the England front row this season, the selectors considered the possibility of choosing two props among their reserves but rejected it because of the other risks involved. "We know Paul Rendall is a very effective loose head", "Budge" Rogers said, "and we feel satisfied that if need be he can do a sound job on the other side as well."

Steve Mills is called up as the reserve hooker for the eighth time. Andy Simpson, of Sale, has been Peter Wheeler's deputy this season but unhappily lost the top of a thumb in an argument with a car door over the weekend. It appears that he is confident of being fit to tour Argentina if selected, but the selectors must be concerned whether the accident has affected his capacity to throw in accurately.

Irish changes: After Sunday's withdrawal of their scrum half, Robbie McGrath, with a broken collar bone, the Irish selectors were forced yesterday to make another change in the team to play Scotland at Murrayfield on Saturday because their hooker, Whelan, pulled out with a neck injury.

The 30-year-old Garryowen hooker has been replaced by John Cantrell (Blackrock College) who will be winning his fifth cap after a five-year absence from international rugby. His place on the replacement bench goes to the University College, Dublin hooker Harry Harbison. McGrath has been replaced by John Robbie.

Two Lions pull out of South Africa match

By Peter West

The England rugby captain, Bill Beaumont, and his British Lions colleague, John Carleton, have decided not to visit South Africa next month to play in a charity match at Bloemfontein. The names of both players were included on an unofficial "black-list", issued recently by the SANROC organization, presumably because they had intended to go to South Africa in a private capacity.

Both were to fly out on April 9 to play a game in aid of the dependents of the former Springbok rugby player, Rompie Stander. Beaumont, who was to have captained one of the sides, gave "business and personal reasons" as having caused his change of mind. "I have sat back and looked at the ramifications of the affair", he said, "and decided that I want to keep sport and politics apart."

Carleton, who gave up his teaching job to tour South Africa with the Lions last summer and is now a building society manager, said: "It is a very delicate matter, but we both decided that we didn't want to embarrass the Rugby Union over one match, and perhaps jeopardize a future tour."

England will be touring Argentina in May and June. It is not known what the reaction would have been in Buenos Aires if Beaumont and Carleton had gone ahead with their visit to South Africa. However, 13 Argentines played two internationals in South Africa last May before the arrival of the Lions, but disguised themselves under the banner of South America as their tour party included a handful of players from other countries in that continent.

Beaumont and Carleton must have spent an agonizing time in making up their minds. Many may think that they have been put under intolerable pressure, and there will be relief that some positive action from the RFU, inspired by the president, John Kendall-Carpenter, has greatly helped to take the heat off them as individuals.

"The political problems were aired over fully last week", Mr Kendall-Carpenter said before the England party trained at Stourbridge last evening. "The Union has decided to take the responsibility of advising Beaumont and Carleton that, after they had made contact with the organizers of the charity match in South Africa, it was in the interests of the players not to accept the invitation."

New Barbarians. Huw Davies, the England stand-off half, is among seven new Barbarians named in the side to play the East Midlands, in the Mobbs Memorial match, at Northampton on March 25. Davies will partner his former Cambridge University captain, Ian Peck, at half-back. Peck, who now plays for Rosslyn Park, will also be making his first appearance for the Barbarians.

Ron Wilson, who has taken London Scottish into the semi-final round of the John Player Cup, switches from his normal position of stand-off to full-back for his first Barbarians game. The other newcomers are Ian Stephens, Norrie Rowan, Tom Smith and Nigel Carr, the Irish B flanker.

Both Beaumont and Carleton are sure to be selected for England's tour of Argentina in May. Their proposed visit to South Africa might have led to trouble with the Argentine authorities.

BARBARIANS: R. Wilson (London Scottish); J. Carleton (Orrell), D. S. Richards (Swansea), R. W. R. Gravell (Llanelli), A. Swift (Swansea); G. H. Davies (Cambridge University), I. G. Peck (Rosslyn Park); I. Stephens (Bridgend), S. Mills (Gloucester), N. Rowan (Boroughmuir), W. Cuthbertson (Kilmarnock), I. Smith (Gala), J. P. O'Driscoll (London Irish), J. Squire (Pontypool), N. J. Carr (Queen's University).

Grosforth handicapped by new quarter-final date

By Peter West

The holders, Leicester, now within two victories of winning the John Player Cup for the third year running—and so making it their own property—have been drawn away to London Scottish in the semi-final round on April 4. In the other tie the winners of the postponed quarter-final round match between Nottingham and Gosforth will be at home to Moseley.

Nottingham's tie against Gosforth could not be played last Saturday because of a waterlogged ground at Beeston and, since the two clubs could not agree about a new date, the RFU have ordained that it shall be played on Saturday week. This expected decision suits Nottingham nicely but is less appealing to Gosforth, who seem likely to be short of several players that day.

Their No 8, John Butler, who is an England B player, is due to be best man at a wedding. The flanker, Anderson, has plans to be on holiday at the time. The stand-off, Johnson, who has made a big contribution to Northumberland's success this season, may be preoccupied with a business course.

Assuming that they can beat Nottingham despite these problems, Gosforth will have the relatively rare pleasure of playing a cup tie at home. It will be a repeat of a match at the semi-final stage in 1979, when Moseley won 6—3 at Gosforth before losing in the last round to Leicester.

Moseley must now hope that Gosforth come unstuck at Nottingham for they will be better supported at a semi-final close to home. The London Scottish-Leicester match will be a reprise of a cup meeting last season, in the quarter-final round when Leicester won comfortably at Welford Road by 22-0.

Scottish, having beaten Gloucester at the weekend, will be entitled to say, should they reach the final, that they have done it the hard way. John Allen, the Leicester treasurer, said: "Obviously we'd have liked another home match. But wherever they are played there are no easy matches at this stage."

This tie is likely to have the Athletic ground bursting at the seams. Its capacity is around 5,000. Leicester expect support from between 2,000 and 3,000 of their faithful. Scottish are to consider the installation of temporary stands.

Leicester's win over Sale last Saturday equalled Coventry's record of 13 successive cup victories, established between 1972 and 1975. But the Tigers feel under continuing pressure and are not satisfied with their present form. Hare's remarkable goal-kicking saved them against Sale and one gathers that the coach, "Chalky" White, was not slow in making his views known about the general performance.

Jordanhill stronger in match of penalties

By Steve Elliott
Jordanhill 24 Borough Road 18

A remarkable Colleges Cup final, rearranged at Alsager College in Staffordshire, was won by Jordanhill after extra time and an extraordinary rush of penalties, with the losers scoring the only try. The game was refereed pedantically, with an obsession with ruck infringements and marginal offside decision around the set pieces.

Jordanhill's winning tally was composed of eight penalties to a goal, a dropped goal and three penalties from Borough Road, the names by which West London Institute is normaly known. Brown opened the scoring with the first Scots penalty, after which Morgan, the Borough Road stand-off half and the game's outstanding player, kicked two penalties for the losers. Two more penalties from the seemingly infallible Brown followed, before a magnificent run down the right wing by Wheeler led to their try. He kicked ahead, the Jordanhill defence got itself in a terrible tangle and Stapleton turned up on his opposite wing to collect the loose ball and score.

Morgan converted majestically from touch, and added a neat dropped goal to earn Borough Road a six-point lead which was halved by Brown's fourth penalty shortly before the interval. The curious format of an unlikely contest early in the second half. Stapleton was prevented from releasing and Morgan kicked the penalty. A Borough Road man wandered offside and Brown kicked yet another, levelling the scores when Borough Road's talented centre Williams offended at a ruck.

Now the scores were level and feverish consultation affirmed that extra time would be played. Some very weary students began to drag unwilling limbs around the field until another offside infringement gave the remarkable Brown his chance of nudging Jordanhill ahead with penalty number seven. Scobie kicked an eighth penalty for the winners, who ended the game in impressive but unsuccessful attack.

JORDANHILL: P. Scobie; S. Lang, S. Rutherford, R. Semple, S. Simpson; G. Brown, R. Stevenson; E. Urquhart, D. Graham, R. Beckett, D. Clark, G. Kennedy, B. Rankin, D. McNab, G. Marshall.

BOROUGH ROAD: M. Humberstone; A. Wheeler, G. Douglas, J. Williams, P. Stapleton; N. Morgan, P. Terry; R. Granger, I. Oliver, S. Trowell, F. Munday, H. Price, J. Atkin, G. Mason, I. Gittens.

Referee: Mr P. Williams (Staffordshire Society).

Rackets

Oxford pass the early test set by Cambridge

By Roy McKelvie

Oxford, winners over the past three years, won the doubles against Cambridge in the university rackets match at Queen's Club yesterday. The Oxford pair William Hollington, playing his fourth match in five years, and Richard Ellis beat Andrew McDonald, now in his third and last year, and William Maltby by 6—15, 15—4, 15—1, 15—5, 15—7. The two singles matches today will be between Hollington and McDonald, Ellis and Maltby.

The result was no more than expected. Hollington is experienced and Ellis when on form is a killer: the outstanding schoolboy of this and possibly any generation. The surprise was that Cambridge won the opening game and though they never looked like taking another it did add some spice to the contest.

Hollington took charge of the second game while his partner, sometimes slashing wildly at the ball, was finding his timing. From 4—4 Hollington served out the game and Cambridge began to look a shade out of their class. Ellis dominated once he had settled down. He served out the third game from 1—1 and carried on to 3—0 in the fourth, a run of 17 which included 10 service winners. The pace was too much for Cambridge. McDonald could keep the rallies going but lacked winning shots.

Latest European snow reports

	Depth (cm) L	U	Piste	Conditions Off piste	Runs to resort	Weather (5 pm) —	°C
Andermatt	100	—	Good	Powder	Fair	Fine	-2
Powder on hard base							
Crans-Montana	30	140	Good	Varied	Good	Fair	3
Icy patches on some slopes							
Flaine	125	310	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	2
Light powder off piste							
Kitzbühel	40	170	Fair	Heavy	Poor	Cloud	3
Some new snow fall							
Les Arcs	110	230	Fair	Varied	Fair	Cloud	0
New snow on good base							
Serre Chevalier	10	80	Good	Powder	Good	Fine	4
New snow on hard base							
Tignes	130	240	Icy	Powder	Fair	Snow	-2
Icy patches on hard packed snow							
Verbier	30	250	Good	Good	Worn	Fine	—
Icy in places							
Wildschönau	40	120	Fair	Heavy	Fair	Snow	5
Soft snow on slush							

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. The following reports have been received from other sources:

	Depth (cm) L	U	State of Piste	Weather —	°C
SWITZERLAND					
Adelboden	40	140	Pwdr	—	-3
Arosa	130	150	Pwdr	—	-3
Braunwald	150	180	Pwdr	—	-3
Champery	—	140	Pwdr	—	0
Chateau d'Oex	20	120	Wet	—	6
Davos	60	240	Pwdr	—	-15
Disentis	60	200	Pwdr	—	-2
Engelberg	70	200	Pwdr	—	-1
Gstaad	60	130	Spring	—	-2
Kandersteg	90	160	Wet	—	0
Klosters	80	230	Pwdr	—	-2
Laax-Flims	60	200	Pwdr	—	-3
Lenk	30	120	Spring	—	-3
Lenzerheide	10	150	Pwdr	—	0
Les Diablerets	30	120	Pwdr	—	-1
Leysin	10	120	Hard	—	0
Murren	100	180	Pwdr	—	-4
Pontresina	30	80	Pwdr	—	-6
Saas-Fee	30	70	Pwdr	—	0
St Cergue	80	100	Spring	—	0
St Moritz	20	70	Pwdr	—	-4
Savognin	40	100	Pwdr	—	-5
Unterwasser	50	100	Hard	—	-1
Villars	30	180	Pwdr	—	-1
Zermatt	15	120	Pwdr	—	-5
ITALY					
Abetone	59	70	—	—	—
Bardonecchia	0	30	—	—	—
Bormio	10	90	—	—	—
Canazei	25	55	—	—	—
Cervinia	20	150	—	—	—
Claviere	10	35	—	—	—
Cortina	15	70	—	—	—
Courmayeur	50	300	—	—	—
Livigno	30	95	—	—	—
Macugnaga	0	70	—	—	—
Madesimo	10	120	—	—	—
Madonna di C	30	—	—	—	—
Ortisei	5	70	—	—	—
San Martino	30	50	—	—	—
Selva	20	70	—	—	—
Sestriere	10	20	—	—	—

SCOTLAND: Cairngorms: Main runs, a few runs complete but narrow, all others broken, new snow on a firm base. Lower slopes, very little new snow. Vertical runs, 1,200ft. Access roads clear. Snow level, 2,300ft. Glenshee: Main runs, only one high-level run complete, new snow. Lower slopes, limited nursery areas. Vertical runs, 700ft. Access roads clear. Snow level, 2,000ft. Glencoe: Main runs, no runs complete, snow cover patchy, new snow. Lower slopes, no snow. Vertical runs, 500ft. Access roads clear. Snow level, 2,900ft. Lecht: Main runs, a few complete, others broken, new snow on a firm base. Lower slopes, limited nursery areas, wet snow on a firm base. Vertical runs, 500ft. Access roads slight snow. Snow level, 2,000ft.

Yesterday's results

Fourth division

Mansfield (0) 0 Hartlepool (0) 1
3,737 Harding
Port Vale (1) 4 Hereford (0) 0
Chamberlain, Bowles (2), Armstrong 2,379

Scottish Cup
Fifth round replay

Clydebank (0) 0 Morton (1) 6
Thompson (3), McNeil, Tolmie, Rooney

TOUR MATCH: Watford 1, Vancouver Whitecaps 0 (att 10,000).

ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE: Northwich Victoria v Scarborough—postponed. Cup: semi-final round, second leg: Altrincham 2, Worcester City 1 (Altrincham win 3—1 on aggregate).

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Midland division: Bedford 2, Taunton 1. Southern division: Chelmsford 1, Hastings 1; Salisbury 3, Tonbridge 0.

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Gateshead 3, Runcorn 1.

LONDON SENIOR CUP: Third round replay: Bishop's Stortford 1, Harrow 2 (after extra time).

SCHOOLS MATCH: Brentwood 9, Royal Liberty 2.

RUGBY UNION: Club match: Abertillery 12, Newbridge 27. British Colleges Cup final: Borough Road 18, Jordanhill 24.

Volleyball

HONGKONG: World Cup, Asian qualifying competition: South Korea beat Hongkong, 15—1, 15—1, 15—3.

هكذا من الأصل

Racing

Fresh Sea Pigeon is specially recommended

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

After a dry morning the course at Cheltenham was passed fit for racing yesterday, so the annual three-day National Hunt meeting will begin there today. The stewards will inspect the course again early this morning only in the event of there having been appreciable overnight rain. So the stage looks set for another fine feast of jumping, marred only by the fact that it is bound to be desperately heavy going underfoot and a mud bath invariably tends to spoil occasions like these.

However, not even the ground should prevent Sea Pigeon from winning the Champion Hurdle for a second time. Nothing has happened this winter to dissuade me from thinking that he is still the best and he is a confident selection. To those who think that he may be a bit long in the tooth now at 11, I can only point out that the great Hatton's Grace won the championship for a third time at the same age. More important, though, is the fact that Sea Pigeon will strip fresh, having enjoyed a winter's rest just as he did before his triumph 12 months ago when he beat Monksfield by seven lengths.

Monksfield was the horse who had won the previous two runnings. There is nothing of his calibre in the field this afternoon. The only difference now is that Sea Pigeon will be ridden by John who is injured. However, Francome was able to get to know Pigeon at Sandown Park at the beginning of November and clearly it was the feel that Sea Pigeon gave him that day that persuaded him to remain loyal to the old horse rather than accept the offer to partner Celtic Ryde.

Francome was justified in making that choice, because at Sandown Sea Pigeon gave Celtic Ryde 10lb and beat him by half a length. Today they meet on equal terms and in the meantime Celtic Ryde has paid Sea Pigeon a rich compliment by winning at Kempton Park, Windsor and Sandown. Where this year's race should differ from the one a year ago is that there will be a horse in the field specifically to ensure a strong gallop from the start.

Meladon was bought last week to act as Pollardstown's pacemaker. By adopting this ploy Pollardstown's owners believe that they will exploit their horse's undoubted stamina to the full and perhaps at the same time undermine Sea Pigeon's, because if there is a chink in the champion's armour, it concerns stamina.

Incidentally, Pollardstown's trainer, Stan Mellor, is to appear before the Jockey Club stewards on March 24 in connexion with positive dope tests on three of his horses, Cold Spell, Royal Pine and Royal Stuart.

The presence of a pacemaker will improve Heighlin's chance, because there are no qualms about him staying. Yet they should all be cut down to size by Sea Pigeon, because no matter which way you interpret the form book he still has a few pounds in hand. Good horse that Heighlin unquestionably is, he has never jumped like a budding champion and I regard Celtic Ryde as Sea Pigeon's main danger. Sea Pigeon's stable companion, Starfen, is my idea of the best outsider. He was in front of Heighlin in last year's Triumph Hurdle when he made such a hash of the last flight and paid for his carelessness.

A year ago Slaney Idol and Daring Run, who are two of Sea Pigeon's rivals today, had the finish of the Waterford Crystal Supreme Novices Hurdle to themselves. Already it is clear that Irish loyalty will be divided once again before the same race, this time between Another Story and Hartstown.

Another Story did well for a comparative beginner to win a handicap at Naas last month, but I prefer Hartstown, whose sights have been set on today's race ever since he won in the mud at Leopardstown 13 days ago. Hartstown clearly relishes the most testing conditions and gets his pace from his sire Rarity, who so nearly beat Brigadier Gerard in the Champion Stakes on soft ground at Newmarket in 1971.

The Waterford Crystal Stayers Hurdle, the third of three races sponsored today by the Waterford Glass company, has all the makings of a three-cornered fight between Derring Rose, Silver Tycoon and Richdee. Derring Rose and Silver Tycoon have clashed before this season, as have Derring Rose and Richdee. Derring Rose is an enigmatic character, brimful of ability, but also possessing a mind of his own. Silver Tycoon has a tendency either to win or fall, whereas Richdee is admirably consistent. In this instance I am tempted to give Silver Tycoon another chance in the hope that he puts in a clear round, because if he does he will be hard to beat.

A year ago the Durkan clan from Dublin won the Arkle Challenge Trophy with their remarkable mare Anaglogs Daughter. This time they are trying to win it again with Will Boreen, but I doubt whether he will be good enough to beat either of his fellow challengers from across the Irish Sea, Royal Dipper and Tacroy, let alone Clayside. Clayside and Royal Dipper have both excelled in defeat this season: Clayside when he was just pipped by Easter Eel at Sandown in December, Royal Dipper when he was runner-up to Royal Bond at Ascot in January. Of the two I just prefer Clayside now.

Undeterred by Friday's misfortune, the Prince of Wales is taking to the saddle again on Good Prospect in the Kim Muir Memorial Challenge Cup. His horse won this race 12 months ago when he was ridden by Jim Wilson, who will now be aboard Another Prospect. In all the race promises to be far harder than the Grand Military Gold Cup, but hats off to the Prince for having another cut. With the emphasis very much on stamina for both horse and rider alike, Waggoner's Walk, Pongee Boy and Talon should all come into their own. Michael Dickinson likens Talon to a slow boat to China, but that is just the sort of horse to prevail in these conditions and he is my selection.

Whatever his luck on Another Prospect, Mr Wilson, who was the meeting's most successful rider 12 months ago, could easily end the day on a high note by winning the Grand Annual Challenge Cup on Durham Town, who revels in mud and will not be pegged back easily, not even by one as good as Gambling Prince.

Finally there were no surprising absentees from Thursday's Gold Cup field after yesterday's four-day forfeit stage but 47 four-year-olds have stood their ground for the Triumph Hurdle for which there is a safety limit of 30. So up to 17 may have to be balloted out and that ballot will be determined on merit, or rather lack of it.



Top of the tree: Sea Pigeon, who attempts to repeat last year's Champion Hurdle victory.

Persian Scimitar is a cut above rest

By Ian Reid

With Spartan Missile opting for the Gold Cup and Shannon Bridge suffering his first hunter chase defeat at Leicester, the Foxhunters' Steeplechase (sponsored by Christie's) at Cheltenham on Thursday now has a much more open look.

There were excuses for Shannon Bridge's defeat, but with the going likely to be as heavy as it was at Leicester, the long climb to the winning post at Cheltenham may find him out again. Grittar, his Leicester conqueror, will doubtless run well, but does not look quite good enough. The same applies to the course winners, Royal Guide and Sparkford.

Whiggie Geo easily won the Jeep/Christie point-to-point championship at Chepstow last May on hard going, although he was receiving over a stone from the second horse, Woodhay. After falling at Stockton on his second outing this year, Whiggie Geo returned to form recently. Queensberry Lad, the Scottish champion, was second to Spartan Missile in the 1979 Foxhunters' and will be the choice of many.

This brings us to the two exciting newcomers, Honorable Man and Persian Scimitar. Neither has put a foot wrong since graduating from point-to-points to hunter-chases this season, and Honorable Man won his third race off the reel at Market Rasen on March 7.

Persian Scimitar, undefeated over fences, has an even rosier record. In his second hunter-chase, run in three divisions at Chepstow he scored by 30 lengths from the useful Arctic Heir, with the 1976 Whitbread Gold Cup winner, Otter Way, third, and the 1975 Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, Ten Up, fourth. Persian Scimitar's time was over 10 seconds faster than that of Double Negative, a winner since, in the second division.

Barring accidents, Persian Scimitar is a definite runner next Thursday, although his rider, Bush, told me that heavy going "would not be to his advantage". If the old guard's guns are to be spiked, Persian Scimitar looks the one most likely to do so.

Wednesday's four-mile National Hunt Steeplechase is known as "the amateurs' grand national", and hunter-chasers have a good record in the race. Waggoner's Walk, who won it last year, has now "turned professional" and should go well in the Kim Muir today.

If a hunter is to follow up in Wednesday's marathon, the best credentials belong to Michael Tory's eight-year-old mare, Morning Heather, and R. McAlpine's Dompton Lad, whose dam, Snowdra Queen, won the Foxhunters'.

Boxing

Minter cannot just do what comes naturally

By Srikumar Sen
Boxing Correspondent

Alan Minter will experience the most agonising moments of his career when he steps into the ring against Ernie Singletary, of Philadelphia, at the Wembley arena tonight. This is a bout he cannot afford to lose, not so much because it could signal the end of his boxing days, but because this fiercely proud and fearless former world champion wants nothing more dearly than to remove the stains of his bloody defeat at the hands of Marvin Hagler, the world champion.

Most boxers would just have to go out and do what comes naturally, that is "do" the other man, but Minter has to think of many other things as well. He has to lift himself from the depths of the humiliation of the Hagler bout; he has to look after his eyes; he has to keep the Philadelphian, who likes close fighting, at arm's length, and he must look positive enough to restore himself in the eyes of himself and of his followers.

It is a hard job against a man who wants to make his name as much as Minter wants his name back. If Minter can do all these things he could make Jimmy Durante's fear of playing Mozart with the left hand and "Have a banana from Carmen" with the right while cracking walnuts with his feet and searching for the Lost Chord—look as easy as whistling.

Nor would Minter's supporters bother the American. The louder the barracking the better he likes it. Singletary has made a career of winning away from home. He even went to South Africa where he beat their top middleweight with such pressure tactics that the South Africans said that Singletary was one of the best Americans to visit their shores.

Singletary is a boxer-puncher from the Joe Frazier stable and, although he has not met rated boxers, he has won well against all. He is just the man to give Minter the road test he needs to reassure himself that all is well and that he should proceed as planned for a world title bout against Hagler.

Singletary, who has won 23 of his 24 bouts, seven inside the distance, has a stiff jab and goes for the body, which means that Minter will find himself in a fight whether he likes it or not. The American has already warned Minter not to treat him as a warm-up. "It's my turn to get on the gravy train," he said.

No less fascinating is the contest between Britain's European heavyweight champion, John L. Gardner, and Osvaldo "Jaws" Ocasio, of Puerto Rico. On appearance and muscle definition alone, the 6ft "Jaws" would chew up Gardner and spit out his gloves, but the Puerto Rican has been out of action since October. Under Gardner's relentless pressure the big man's inactivity could catch up with him.

Tony Sibson should not be troubled by another Puerto Rican, Nick Ortiz. Ortiz is an aggressive and rough fighter but he has been stopped three times and once suffered such a serious knockout that he was out (off boxing) for 10 months. It could happen again. Against a hard hitter like Sibson it could be a case of the referee and the doctor being as much on their guard as the two men in the ring.

Charlie Magri, who has been trying to get Peter Mathebula, South Africa's WBA flyweight champion, to take up his challenge, may find his chances of a world title bout receding. If Mathebula's defence against Santos Laciar, of Argentina, in Soweto on March 28 goes on, the two boxers could find themselves on the anti-apartheid blacklist. The South African Council of Sport are opposed to the bout and are hoping that a boycott of the event will be as successful as the boycott of the visit of Jerry Lee Lewis and Ray Charles to the township.

Mathebula, South Africa's first black world champion, is regarded as being in breach of the United Nations resolution discouraging sport with the republic. Certainly any visit by Magri to South Africa or a defence by the champion in Britain would be deeply resented by anti-apartheid bodies in South Africa, the South African Council of Sport told me yesterday.

Since the bout comes just four days after "Heroes Week" of mourning for the Sharpeville and Soweto dead and since sport has become an election issue, the council feel that blacks might stay away from the championship and draw attention to their cause.

Golf

Bleak prospect of drop in prize money for women

By John Hennessy
Golf Correspondent

The Women's Professional Golf Association have suffered a number of setbacks in their attempt to increase the stature of their circuit. A number of sponsors have dropped out and, unless replacements can be found, prize money may fall from about £213,000 to £170,000. This is still 50 per cent higher than last year but the Association had hoped for a much more solid advance.

The most serious loss is the Broom tournament from September 15 to 18, with minimum prize money of £20,000. The Barnham Barnham Broom tournament from September 15 to 18, withi minimum prize money of £20,000. The Barnham Broom Golf and Country Club, Norwich, have withdrawn altogether, but Barry Edwards, representing the WPGA, is hoping to launch an East Anglian Open championship on some other course.

Another tournament which has also lost its sponsors is the Irish Open from August 5 to 8. Mr Edwards is again opening negotiations for new financial support. The Hitachi tournament from August 19 to 21 is a victim of changes on the foreign exchange and the prize money on offer has come down from £10,000 to £3,000. Here again, Mr Edwards is hoping for assistance elsewhere. Six Sunday pro-ams, each worth £2,500 of sponsorship from Dunhill's, have disappeared.

On the other hand, plans are well advanced for bringing the American women's tour to Europe again next year. Two sponsors have declared themselves and it is hoped to hold one tournament in Paris, probably Saint Cloud, at the end of September and another in Britain, possibly Sunningdale, in the first week of October. Each tournament will carry a minimum prize money of $150,000.

Women hold the stage for the next three days when the Avia foursomes tournament will be held at the Berkshire. The players were kitted out yesterday with thermal underwear, provided by Viloft, against the rigours of the British climate. This is something of an amusing spin-off from the offer of a prize to the best-dressed competitor, first made last year, but the golf is taken so seriously that many players had two rounds of practice yesterday.

This tournament has become almost the private property of Linda Bayman, who has won it five times with four different partners. This week she is attempting her sixth victory with her fifth accomplice, Susan Hedges. Angela Bonallack is again partnered by her daughter, Glenna, who came late to golf and has reduced her handicap from 28 to four in only two years.

SUN CITY (Arizona): LPGA tournament: Final scores (US unless stated): 277: P. Hayes, 69, 69, 70, 69; 279: S. Palmer, 76, 69, 68, 66; 281: H. Stacy, 72, 72, 63, 73; 283: A. Okamoto (Japan), 70, 74, 69, 69; 283: K. Kertzman, 72, 67, 71, 73; 284: A. Reinhardt, 67, 76, 73, 68; B. Moxness, 71, 71, 72, 70; J. Alex, 71, 70, 71, 72; S. Bertolaccini (Argentina), 74, 68, 69, 73; 285: P. Bradley, 72, 66, 74, 73; 286: A. Miller, 70, 73, 73, 70; K. Whitworth, 73, 76, 68, 69; B. Burfeindt, 72, 72, 69, 73; 287: K. Young, 69, 74, 74, 70; D. Massey, 73, 72, 71, 71; 288: P. Sheehan, 73, 73, 73, 69; B. Barrow, 75, 69, 74, 70; C. Johnson, 70, 73, 74, 71.

Verwey banned for two years

Johannesburg, March 16.—Bobby Verwey, a veteran golfer, who represented South Africa in the World Cup tournament in Columbia, was today suspended from tournament play for two years.

The ban, imposed by the South African Professional Golfers' Association, follows an incident in a tournament last month when Verwey's playing partner refused to sign his card, saying he had incorrectly marked a ball on one green. Verwey, brother-in-law of Gary Player, was not available for comment.—Reuter.

Floyd takes title for second year

Miami, Florida, March 15.—Ray Floyd today won the Doral-Eastern tournament for the second year running, withstanding a strong challenge from the Australian David Graham.

LEADING FINAL SCORES (US unless stated): 273 R. Floyd 66, 68, 71, 68. 274 K. Fergus 67, 71, 69, 67; D. Graham (Australia) 66, 73, 68, 67. 275 T. Kite 69, 69, 70, 67. 276 G. Morgan 66, 69, 71, 70; L. Thompson 68, 68, 71, 69. 277 B. Lietzke 73, 66, 69, 69. 278 B. Allin 72, 67, 70, 69; R. Murphy 68, 71, 69, 70. 279 M. Reid 70, 70, 68, 71; M. Sullivan 70, 69, 70, 70. 280 M. Lye 73, 70, 65, 72. 281 R. Wadkins 76, 69, 67, 69; L. Wadkins 68, 66, 75, 72. 283 G. Norman (Australia) 71, 69, 70, 72. British competitor: 291 K. Brown 73, 73, 72, 73.—Reuter.

Cheltenham programme

[Television (BBC 2): 2.15, 2.50, 3.30 and 4.5 races]

2.15 WATERFORD CRYSTAL SUPREME HURDLE (Novices: £14,025: 2m)

[illegible]

2.50 ARKLE TROPHY CHASE (£15,204: 2m)

[illegible]

3.30 CHAMPION HURDLE CHALLENGE TROPHY (£32,260: 2m)

[illegible]

4.5 WATERFORD CRYSTAL STAYERS HURDLE (£12,588: 3m 1f)

[illegible]

4.40 KIM MUIR CHASE (Handicap: Amateurs: £5,423: 3m)

[illegible]

501 24upӧu Good Prospect (CD) (HRH Prince of Wales), N. Gaselee, 12-11-10 ...... The Prince of Wales

5.15 GRAND ANNUAL CHASE (Handicap: £6,694: 2m)

[illegible]

Cheltenham selections

By Our Racing Correspondent

2.15 Hartstown. 2.50 Clayside. 3.30 SEA PIGEON is a confident selection. 4.5 Silver Tycoon. 4.40 Talon. 5.15 Durham Town.

Sedgefield programme

2.0 DARLINGTON HURDLE (Div I: novices: £345: 2½m)

[illegible]

2.30 MIDDLESBROUGH OPPORTUNITY HURDLE (Selling: handicap: £407: 2m)

[illegible]

3.0 SOUTH DURHAM OPEN HUNT CHASE (Hunters: £445: 3m)

[illegible]

3.40 RAMSIDE CHASE (Handicap: £1,192: 2½m)

1 231143 Impus (CD), R. Robinson, 8-11-10 ...... C. Pimlott
2 1p4033 Rigorous (CD, B), Mrs J. Simpson, 10-11-10 ...... A. Stringer 7
3 223143 King Vulture, C. Richards, 8-11-7 ...... Mr Todhunter 7
4 201030 Golden Jest (CD), W. A. Stephenson, 7-11-4 ...... R. Lamb
5 4-13420 Twopenny Blue, T. Gillam, 9-11-3 ...... Mrs A. Gray 4
7 210442 Durham Lad (C), T. Fairhurst, 8-11-1 ...... C. Fairhurst
8 022/1p-r Prairie Master (C), R. Peacock, 12-10-1 ...... S. J. O'Neill

11-4 King Venture, 7-2 Impus, 5-1 Durham Lad, 11-2 Rigorous, 6-1 Golden Jest, 10-1 Twopenny Blue, 12-1 Prairie Master.

4.15 SEAHAM CHASE (Novices: £655: 2m)

1 000pp-0 Adro Adyl, J. Gilbert, 7-11-0 ...... S. J. O'Neill
2 4ufu00 Automaton, W. A. Stephenson, 7-11-0 ...... R. Lamb
3 234120 Benowen, R. Fisher, 6-11-0 ...... D. Goulding
5 Easter Poem, R. Jeffrey, 8-11-0 ...... K. Whyte
6 211f00 Happy Worker, M. W. Easterby, 6-11-0 ...... P. Tuck
8 1f0000 Imp (B), R. Robinson, 6-11-0 ...... C. Pimlott
9 023064 King Tud (B), N. Chamberlain, 7-11-0 ...... S. Charlton
10 0-000u0 Linstes (D), P. Curtis, 6-11-0 ...... D. Wilkinson 4
11 003000 Merry Missus, D. Moorhead, 7-11-0 ...... D. McCaskill 4
12 [illegible] Mystic Match, J. Brockbank, 7-11-0 ...... M. Barnes
15 pu0/a3p Reformina, V. Thompson, 8-11-0 ...... Mr M. Thompson 7

9-4 Benowen, 3-1 Happy Worker, 11-2 King Tud, 6-1 Mystic Match, 8-1 Automaton, 10-1 Merry Missus, 16-1 Imp, 25-1 others.

4.45 DARLINGTON HURDLE (Div II: novices: £345: 2½m)

1 0-04041 Maynete, Mrs E. Andrews, 6-12-3 ...... Mr S. Andrews 7
2 003040 Accountess (B), C. Bell, 8-11-7 ...... C. Pimlott
3 004/00-4 Cool Sol, T. Barnes, 9-11-7 ...... M. Barnes
7 320002 Gold Shoveler, E. Sloane, 6-11-7 ...... C. Tinkler
9 020000 King Black, W. A. Stephenson, 7-11-7 ...... R. Lamb
10 020000 Menalist, R. Dods, 5-11-7 ...... A. Stringer 7
12 p Old Shot, R. Haigh, 7-11-7 ...... C. Fairhurst
13 0000 Saucy, J. Brockbank, 6-11-7 ...... N. Doughty
14 0000 Spin-A-Lise, S. Wiles, 5-11-7 ...... S. Charlton
15 000/3- Starry Eyes, T. Knox, 7-11-7 ...... Mr M. Todhunter 7
18 Tenquin, R. Fisher, 5-11-7 ...... D. Goulding
19 p000rf Three Bars, J. Harris, 6-11-7 ...... J. A. Harris 7
20 040202 Twiflight, B. Wilkinson, 6-11-7 ...... D. Wilkinson 4

5-2 Maynete, 11-4 Gold Shoveler, 5-1 Twiflight, 11-2 Tenquin, 8-1 Cool Sol, 12-1 Accountess, 14-1 King Black, 20-1 others.

*Doubtful runner

Sedgefield selections

2.0 Quite a Boy. 2.30 Caleta Prince. 3.0 Clonmellon. 3.40 Impus. 4.15 Happy Worker. 4.45 Gold Shoveler.

Ayr results

2.15 (2.15) CARCLUIE HURDLE (Handicap: £969: 2m)
SIMBAD, b h, by Simbir—Amsterdam Lassie (R. Nelson), 5-10-10 G. Wilkinson (6-1) 1
Shaloira ...... S. Houlker (12-1) 2
Essex ...... W. Beardwood (25-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 60p; places, 20p, 45p, 83p. Dual F: £5.33. CSF: £7.77. R. Fisher, at Ulverston. 5l, 2½l. Kilburn Boy (4-1 fav) 4th. 11 ran.

2.45 (2.45) SLAPHOUSE HURDLE (Div I: Novices: £683: 3m)
EMERALD EMPEROR, b g, by Ribero—Frangipani (T. Broadley), 7-10-13 G. Bradley (6-1) 1
[illegible] Bridge J. P. Byrne (14-1) 2
Gaelic-Saint D. Wilkinson (4-1 jt fav) 3
TOTE: Win, 71p; places, 24p, 33p, 12p. Dual F: £3.42. CSF: £8.84. M. Naughton, at Richmond. ½l, 12l. Armlawater 4-1 jt fav. Noddy's Ryde (5-1) 4th. 13 ran.

3.15 (3.15) SUNDRUM CHASE (Handicap: £2,556: 2m)
SWIFT ALBANY, ch g, by Count Albany—Swift Imp (R. Robinson), 7-11-1 C. Pimlott (5-4 fav) 1
Harnal ...... P. J. Byrne (5-1) 2
Brawny Scot ...... R. Barry (8-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 26p; places, 12p, 27p. Dual F: 26p. CSF: 49p. R. Robinson, at Scarborough. 5l, 15l. Stay Bell (6-1) 4th. 6 ran. NR: Palace Guard.

3.45 (3.45) SLAPHOUSE HURDLE (Div II: Novices: £639: 2m)
COPPER TINSELL, ch m, by Croon-er-Camisole (J. Wilson), 5-11-6 M. Barnes (7-1) 1
Glenvara ...... D. Atkins (11-1) 2
Migelitte ...... G. Bradley (14-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 68p; places, 22p, 40p, 39p. Dual forecast: £6.02. C.S.F.: £8.54. T. Barnes at Penrith. Hd, 3l. Caroline Lamb 13-8 fav. Press Gang (8-1) 4th. 12 ran.

4.5 (4.17) AYRSHIRE CHASE (Novices: £784: 3m 110yd)
ASTRAL CHARMER, b g, by Space King—Mars Delight (C. Bell), 8-11-10 ...... Miss Mary Bell (13-8 fav) 1
Vulgan's Strike ...... Mr J. Gilmour (33-1) 2
Rag Robin ...... Mr R. Tate (12-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 23p; places, 20p, 40p. Dual forecast: £1.15. C.S.F.: £5.49. C. Bell at Hawick. 12l, 8l. Cinclud (3-1) 4th. 6 ran.

4.45 (4.45) HOLLYBUSH CHASE (Novices: £1,688: 3m 110yd)
PEATY SANDY, b g, by Spartan General—Petlow (Mrs I. Hamilton), 7-11-8 ...... Mr T. G. Dunn (9-4 fav) 1
High Diver ...... J. P. Byrne (5-2) 2
Sea Lad ...... C. Grant (15-2) 3
TOTE: Win, 27p; places, 12p, 10p, 14p. Dual forecast: 21p. C.S.F.: 76p. Miss H. Hamilton at Innerleithen. 1½l, 3l. Palace Royal (11-1) 4th. 8 ran.

5.15 (5.15) GRUNWICK STAKES (National Hunt Flat race: £612: 3m)
JOE SUNLIGHT, b g, by Simbir—Raheema (R. West), 4-10-0 D. Wilkinson (Evens fav) 1
Arctic Menelek ...... M. Brennan (6-1) 2
Duanikler House ...... Mr T. G. Dun (7-2) 3
TOTE: Win, 15p; places, 20p, 19p, 10p. Dual forecast: 19p. C.S.F.: 82p. C. Thornton at Middleham. 6l, 20l. Galleum (25-1) 4th. 19 ran. PLACEPOT £815.85.

Pool of £466.20 carried forward to Cheltenham today.

STATE OF GOING (official): Cheltenham: heavy; no inspection planned unless appreciable overnight rain. Sedgefield: good to soft; no inspection planned. Wednesday: Stockton: Heavy; stewards inspection 2 pm today.

Today's fixtures

Kick off 7.30 unless stated

FIRST DIVISION: Birmingham City v Wolverhampton Wanderers; Norwich City v Middlesbrough; Southampton v Everton.

SECOND DIVISION: Swansea City v Bristol City.

[illegible]

Rowing

National eight have a point to prove against Oxford

By Jim Railton

Oxford University have a two-day appointment with the British national heavyweight eight this weekend; Cambridge may compete in the Kingston Head of the River as a new entry.

The British heavyweights, with five Olympic silver medal winners from the 1976 and 1980 Olympic regattas, will wish to put Oxford in their place, as any respectable national eight should. But the heavyweights may well find this Oxford crew somewhat of a fly in the ointment, with 20 minutes of rowing spread over several bouts scheduled—and that will be exhausting.

The national eight must defend their pride against the nation in the Tideway Head of the River Race in two weeks' time. So far three crews appear as possible challengers: Oxford University, Kingston and Thames Tradesmen. Oxford are unlikely to compete so the national squad will be out to dampen the university's pride this weekend.

The encounter should give Britain's national coach, Penny Chuter, the opportunity to widen her vision and look at some international potential in the Oxford boat. The Oxford president, Chris Mahoney, is already an Olympic silver medal winner and Oxford's stroke, Bland, and No 7, Andrews, also have a touch of class.

Cambridge have been making inquiries about the Kingston Head, which could be a strong hint that they will compete there this Saturday. The Kingston Head is 30 furlongs long, stretching from Hampton Court to Teddington — half a mile shorter than the Boat Race course—a searching test, with the fast Kingston eight expected to demote the Oxford reserves, Isis, who start as head crew.

After this weekend's work, Oxford will certainly take a rest next Monday, leaving Cambridge to start on their own on the Tideway.

The final fortnight before the Boat Race on April 4 (1 pm) will also be a contest between Cambridge's coach, Graeme Hall, and Oxford's irrepressible Daniel Topolski. Both rowed against each other in the Boat Race (Hall won); they also rowed together in a lightweight coxless four to win a world silver medal; and now the compete against each other again as the respective finishing coaches.

Hall's stature has grown considerably since the last Boat Race because he coached Britain to a silver medal in the Moscow Olympic regatta. Cambridge will be looking for some of that shine to rub off on them. Topolski is just back from an extended tour of South America, having left Oxford in the capable hands of their new chief coach, Steve Royle.

Today there are 223 entries, including 144 eights, in the annual schools' head of the river race (2pm) on the Tideway. The favourites for the headship are Shrewsbury, St Edward's and Radley.

OXFORD: *P. J. Head (Hampton and Oriel), bow; *N. A. Conington (Hampton and Oriel); R. F. Yonge (King's School, Canterbury and New College); R. Emerton (Abingdon and Christ Church); *N. B. Rankov (St Hugh's and Corpus Christi); *C. J. Mahoney (Hampton and Oriel); *M. D. Andrews (Abingdon and Magdalen); *J. L. Bland (King Edward VI, Stafford and Merton), stroke; S. Brown (Taunton and Wadham), cox.

CAMBRIDGE: M. P. Cowie, (Cheltenham and Fitzwilliam), bow; *N. F. Panter (Kingston and LMBC); R. J. Stephens (KCS, Wimbledon, and Emmanuel); M. J. S. Clark (Shrewsbury and Downing); *J. S. Palmer (Eton and Pembroke); *A. G. Phillips (City of London and Jesus); *L. W. J. Baart (Shrewsbury and Caius); *A. D. Dalrymple (Eton and Downing), stroke; *C. J. Wigglesworth (Bryanston and Jesus), cox.

*A Blue.

Ice skating

Leading Britons spread the word in China

By John Hennessy

A party of British ice skaters, judges and coaches left London yesterday for a series of exhibitions and seminars in China. The group included Karen Wood and Christopher Howarth, British solo champions, and Karen Barber and Nicholas Slater, ice dance silver medal winners.

Courtney Jones, the British ice dance judge for the world championships, has drawn attention to a mistake in our report published in later editions on March 7. Because of an error in transmission "British judge" was substituted for "Russian judge" in the following passage: "On both occasions the British judge denied the British supremacy, marking his couple level on the waltz and joining the Italian and French judges in preferring them in the original set pattern." Mr Jones marked Miss Torvill and Dean first on both dances.

Show jumping

HERTOGENBOSCH: World Cup: Jump-off (after two rounds): 1, G. Bertrand de Balanda (France), Galoubet A, clear round in 29.95sec; 2, E. Hendrix (Netherlands), Livius, clear 33.30; 3, N. Skelton (GB), If Ever, clear 38.52; 4, H. Simon (Austria), Landerstein, 4 faults 31.09; 5, F. Llopes (W G), Goya, 4 faults 33.59; 6, B. Scolari (Italy), Falk, 4 faults 39.05; 11, J. Whitaker (GB), Ryan's Son, 4 faults in second round. Leaders (European section) after eight events: 1, G. Bertrand de Balanda, 72pts; 2, F. Cottier (France), 66; 3, C. Bradley (GB), 61; 4, T. Fruehmann (Austria), 52; 5, D. Broome (GB), 52; 6, D. Rickets (GB), 48.

For the record

Baseball

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION: New York Knicks 120, Philadelphia 76ers 109; Cleveland Cavaliers 101, Washington Bullets 100; Milwaukee Bucks 112, Seattle Supersonics 105; Chicago Bulls 97, Kansas City Kings 87; Boston Celtics 133, New Jersey Nets 125; Denver Nuggets 138, Houston Rockets 127; San Diego Clippers 122, Los Angeles Lakers 118; Portland Trail Blazers 135, Dallas Mavericks 110; San Antonio Spurs 114, Golden State Warriors 112.

ATLANTIC DIVISION	P	W	L	%	GB
†Philadelphia	75	58	17	.773	—
*Boston	74	57	17	.770	1½
New York	74	44	30	.595	13½
Washington	75	35	40	.467	23
New Jersey	74	22	52	.297	35½

CENTRAL DIVISION	P	W	L	%	GB
*Milwaukee	75	55	20	.733	—
Indiana	73	41	32	.547	14
Chicago	75	38	37	.507	17
Atlanta	74	29	45	.392	25½
Cleveland	74	27	47	.365	27½
Detroit	75	19	56	.253	36

MIDWEST DIVISION	P	W	L	%	GB
*San Antonio	75	47	28	.627	—
Kansas City	75	37	38	.493	10
Houston	75	36	39	.480	11
Denver	74	31	43	.419	15½
Utah	74	26	48	.351	20½
Dallas	64	12	62	.162	34½

PACIFIC DIVISION	P	W	L	%	GB
Phoenix	75	53	22	.707	—
Los Angeles	73	48	25	.658	4
Portland	75	39	36	.520	14
Golden State	74	36	38	.486	16½
San Diego	75	34	41	.453	19
Seattle	75	33	42	.440	20

*—Won division title.
†—Qualified for play-off.

Football

CARACAS: World Cup: South American Zone, Group 1: Venezuela 1, Bolivia 1.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	2	2	0	3	1	4
Bolivia	3	1	2	4	5	2
Venezuela	3	1	2	1	4	2

ASUNCION: Colombia 2, Paraguay 0.

MEXICO CITY: America (Mexican League) 4, New York Cosmos 2.

Golf

SCHOOLS: Qualifying round (Bury St Edmunds): 1, Dewes High School, Lowestoft, 259 (three-card agg); 2, Norwich School 261; 3, Netherhall School, Cambridge, 261. Best individual: 78, J. Maddock (Dewes). Qualifying round (Nordth Manchester): 1, Hulme GS, Oldham, 249; 2, St Bede's College, Manchester, 251; 3, Bury G School, 256. Best individual: 75, J. Feeney (St Bede's).

Ice hockey

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Boston Bruins 4, Hartford Whalers 2; Quebec Nordiques 3, Colorado Rockies 0; Toronto Maple Leafs 4, Philadelphia Flyers 3; Chicago Black Hawks 8, Winnipeg Jets 2; Calgary Flames 8, Edmonton Oilers 3.

PATRICK DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
†New York Islanders	70	41	12	17	313	233	94
†Philadelphia	71	38	11	22	288	225	87
Calgary	71	36	13	22	293	251	85
New York Rangers	71	25	12	34	282	295	62
Washington	70	22	16	32	252	286	60

SMYTHE DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
*St Louis	71	42	15	14	317	238	99
Chicago	71	28	14	29	274	285	70
Vancouver	71	26	17	28	252	265	69
Edmonton	69	22	13	34	275	290	57
Colorado	70	20	10	40	223	304	50
Winnipeg	71	8	12	51	216	350	28

NORRIS DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
†Montreal	70	40	11	19	286	199	91
†L Angeles	70	38	10	22	292	251	86
Pittsburgh	69	27	10	32	266	305	64
Hartford	71	18	17	36	258	331	53
Detroit	68	18	16	34	217	281	52

ADAMS DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
*Buffalo	69	33	19	17	274	210	85
Boston	70	33	12	25	282	243	78
Minnesota	71	31	16	24	254	234	78
Quebec	70	25	15	30	270	294	65
Toronto	70	25	11	34	282	320	61

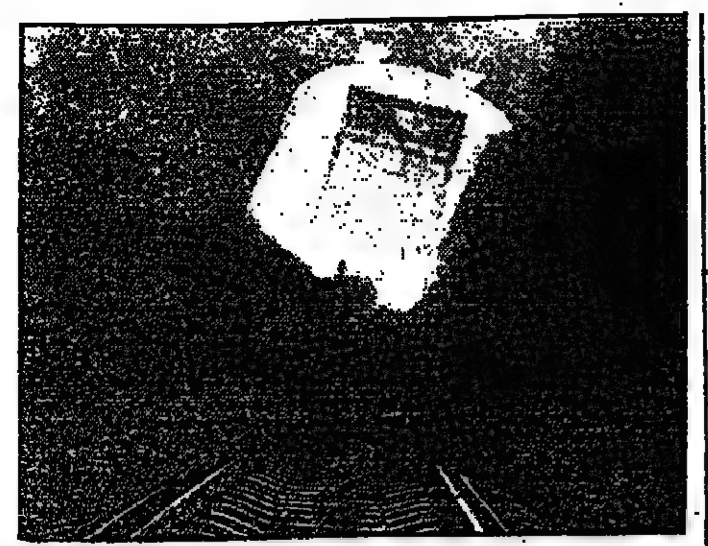
*Won division title
†Qualified for play-off



PEKING: World championship: Group C: Austria 7, Britain 2; Hungary 6, Bulgaria 1; China 10, N Korea 2; Denmark 5, France 3.

Curling

PERTH: Women's world championship: Second round: Switzerland 8, Scotland 7; Germany 6, Denmark 9; Netherlands 2, Sweden 9; Norway 7, United States 5; Canada 9, Italy 8. Third round: Italy 4, Norway 10; Netherlands 1, Canada 10; Denmark 5, Switzerland 4; Scotland 6, Germany 8; United States 5, Sweden 7. Fourth round: Netherlands 4, Norway 12; Sweden 8, Germany 1; United States 6, Italy 13; Canada 7, Switzerland 9; Denmark 5, Scotland 6. Standings: Norway 4 wins, Canada 3, Denmark 3, Sweden 3, Switzerland 3, Germany 2, Italy 1, Scotland 1, Netherlands 0, United States 0.



The advanced passenger train at speed.

A rough ride for the tilting train

Will the latest setback to British Rail's 160 mph Advanced Passenger Train (APT) finally spell the demise of this potential worldbeater that obstinately refuses to come right?

The tilting aerodynamic train that was to revolutionize BR's inter-city service in 1978 has been delayed repeatedly by one technical fault after another and the best achievable deadline for entry into passenger service, May 1986, is now pushing uncomfortably close to the requirement for new stock for newly electrified inter-city services—assuming, as everyone now does, that the Government will shortly approve BR's massive £1,000m bid for electrification of 80 per cent of its main lines—in the mid-eighties.

The APT is the much more advanced, electrified successor to the fairly conventionally-engineered High Speed Train (HST) already in service on the East Coast and Western main lines. Though both are now restricted for commercial reasons to 125 mph in service (the APT was designed for twice that speed) the HST would in practice take half an hour longer from London to Glasgow because of its slower acceleration and cornering.

Abandonment of the APT now and its replacement by a hurriedly cobbled-together electric version of the HST would be a severe blow to BR's inter-city competitiveness against air travel in the late '80s and '90s.

But if the latest problem—the danger that approaching APTs locked at full tilt might collide at certain pinch points along the track—were not soluble it would indeed be the end of APT, safety being the *sine qua non* of rail travel.

There seems no reason why this latest problem cannot be quickly solved given adequate engineering input. But that is where doubts arise. Will that input be provided?

This train has had its opponents from the start, when conventional railway engineers were suspicious of the bright young men from aerospace who pioneered the new project. It was a case of engineer versus scientist, and HST versus APT. But in the mid-seventies, some of APT's best ideas were incorporated into HST, greatly improving that vehicle; APT was handed over to the engineers for final development; and the doubters among operating and commercial staff were (apparently) finally converted to APT. It looked as if this strange new baby was finally accepted as part of the BR family.

But the way new problems keep arising, and taking an unconscionable time to solve, suggests that there are still serious doubts about APT whatever British Rail may say.

Clearly the train is a remarkable advance—the biggest single step ever taken by a railway, British Rail happily boasted some years ago—bristling with operating as well as engineering problems.

So even when the engineers eventually get the nuts and bolts right, there will remain the formidable hurdle of passenger acceptance of a train that tilts like a toboggan as it hurtles round bends. Have British Rail tried to go too far too fast? Or alternatively, have they failed to provide the engineering input and commitment that so large a step required?

British Rail have put an awful lot into APT and left a suitable alternative dangerously late. But the option of a more conventional fast electric train for the late eighties has to be looked at seriously in the light of APT's alarmingly recurrent setbacks.

Michael Bailey
Transport Correspondent

Can Mr Botha fight off the hardest of hard liners?

South Africa goes to the polls on April 28. Will the right-wing backlash reported by our Southern Africa correspondent Nicholas Ashford bring gains for the hard-line supporters of apartheid?

Johannesburg

"This election will be the most *verkrampte* (hardline) ever fought in South Africa", remarked Dr Connie Mulder, former Minister of Information and now leader of the small but rapidly expanding National Conservative Party (NCP). "This time the challenge to the Government is clearly coming from the right and not from the left."

Few observers would disagree that the real contest in next month's general election will be between the ruling National Party and the white supremacist parties to the right of it. Mr Pieter Botha's Government has already moved sharply to the right in an attempt to fend off this right-wing challenge. "It is a contest between the *verkramptes* and the super-*verkramptes*", remarked one commentator. "The Progressive Federal Party will hardly get a look in, even though it is the official parliamentary opposition."

Lined up against the National Party is a formidable array of right-wing forces. The most important is the Herstigte Nasionale Party (HNP) led by Mr Jaap Marais, a brilliant orator and equally skilful party organizer. The HNP is putting up 92 candidates to stand against Nationalists and has also reached an informal arrangement with Dr Mulder's party not to contest seats which the NCP is fighting.

The NCP will be fielding about 12 candidates and a third right-wing organization known as Aksie Eie Toekoms (Action Own Future), which was formed a month ago by a group of disaffected right-wing academics, will put up two candidates.

Ranged behind these parties are right-wing extremist groups which have been responsible for bombing the offices of liberal Afrikaner academics and tarring and feathering a radical professor. Although there is no direct link between these extremist groups and the right-wing parties, their activities have demonstrated to the Government the strength of the right-wing backlash.

The HNP, NCP and the right-wing academics share two beliefs. The first is that the "integrationist" policies being followed by the present Government will lead inexorably to eventual black majority rule—a situation which the overwhelming majority of South African whites wish to avoid.

The second is that they believe themselves to be the true upholders of National Party principles as laid down by the originators of the country's apartheid policy. They maintain that Mr Botha (and Mr John Vorster before him) is responsible, largely as a result of international pressure, for leading the party away from its chosen path.

A right-wing backlash has been forecast ever since the HNP broke away from the National Party in 1969, but until now it has never materialized. During the 1977 election the party received only 34,000 votes compared with 689,000 for the National Party and it has yet to win a parliamentary seat. However, a swing of between 20 and 30 per cent in recent by-elections has made the party confident that there is an unstoppable groundswell of white opinion against Mr Botha's administration.

"People are leaving the National Party in droves", said Mr Marais in an interview. "There is one national cry among whites and that is that the Government is selling us out. They are only concerned about blacks and are doing nothing for whites."

The swing to the right is strongest among blue collar workers, particularly mineworkers (several senior officials of the mineworkers' union are standing as HNP candidates), and among farmers who are worried about the Government's plans for consolidating black tribal homelands.

Mr Marais displays the same sort of messianic zeal and oratorical skills at election meetings as the Rev Ian Paisley does in Northern Ireland. And he is equally adept at exploiting the fears and prejudices of his white supporters. His language can often be offensive. "This is the biggest *kaffir-boetie* (kaffir-loving) government in the world", he told a recent election rally.

Mr Marais attacks the Government on three main issues. First he is violently opposed to the fact that South Africa supplies food and other essentials to countries like Zambia and Mozambique which harbour anti-South African guerrillas. "People find it incomprehensible that we go on helping these countries while over 700 of our boys have been killed on the border and our defence budget is over 2,000m rands (£1,200m) a year."

His solution is to cut off all supplies to black states, and if that does not work to bomb them into submission. That way, he believes, the white man in Africa would regain the self-respect which he has steadily been losing ever since states to the north started getting their independence.

His second criticism is against the changes in petty apartheid and the introduction of other social reforms which blacks have denounced as being "cosmetic". The Government, he says, is gradually abolishing those measures which led to the creation of separate facilities and is promoting integration instead. "This is getting under the skin of people." He is opposed to multi-racial sport, the opening of hotels and restaurants to blacks, the removal of job reservation and the establishment of black trade unions.

"The general intermingling of races is now being extended to the political sphere", he says. The establishment of the tri-racial President's Council, in his view, is a "glaring example of how far the Government is committed to integration".

Finally, Mr Marais is opposed to the Government because of its economic policies. "Money is being taken from ordinary whites, transferred to blacks and then turned into profits for big concerns. In this way the Government is achieving its aim of economic equality between blacks and whites. This will be followed by social equality and ultimately by political equality", he argues.

Dr Mulder shares many of the HNP's misgivings about the direction of Government policy but, having been exposed to international opinion when he was a minister, couches them in more diplomatic language. His main concern is that whites will be "swamped" by the increasing number of blacks living in urban areas—what he describes as a "creeping black death".



Jaap Marais: he has a solution.

The only way to avoid this, he says, is for each race to maintain its separate identity in its own area. The problem of the urban blacks could be overcome, he suggests, by transporting them to work in white cities each day by high speed train and then dispatching them back to their homelands again each evening—"just like commuters in England or America".

By trying to move too fast Mr Botha has "messed up everything that the National Party had achieved during the previous 25 years", he says of his former Cabinet colleague, who only narrowly beat Dr Mulder in the contest for Prime Minister in 1978: "He's going to receive the surprise of his life in this election."

He rejects accusations that his aim is to split Afrikanerdom, for long considered the ultimate heresy by the country's ruling Afrikaner elite. He blames deviationist National Party policies for provoking such a split. He foresees white politics moving away from the traditional basis of Afrikaner versus English-speakers to a straightforward right-left confrontation.

The key test of the extent of the right-wing swing among white voters will take place in the huge Waterberg constituency where Mr Marais is challenging the present incumbent, Dr Andries Treurnicht, Minister of State Administration and standard bearer for the powerful *verkrampte* group within the National Party. Most outsiders would be able to detect little difference between Mr Marais' white supremacist views and those of Dr Treurnicht. But according to Mr Marais this contest will show who is "the true representative of Afrikaner nationalism".

The man who saw through Moscow

Bernard Levin on a fine reporter's view of the Olympic Games

It was inevitable that the Moscow Olympics, like all those quadrennial meetings, would produce a substantial harvest of books. Most of them, of course, deal with the contest itself, describing and recording the running and jumping and swimming and throwing. But it was no less inevitable that these particular Games, which in the nature and significance of their non-athletic aspect could compare with only one previous Olympic gathering, the Nazi Olympics of 1936, would lead also to a very different kind of study.

So indeed they did, and the result lies before me: Christopher Booker's *The Games War* (published by Faber at £5.95). Mr Booker went to Moscow for the *Daily Mail*, which newspaper, in common with others that had editorially supported the boycott (and no British daily or Sunday did so more vigorously or consistently), was in something of a difficulty. If, as the *Mail* did, you declare for months on end that no decent person ought to set foot in Moscow for the totalitarians' *Sportfest* while the aggressors remained in Afghanistan and threatened Poland with invasion, you are in no difficulty if the boycott works and the Games are called off.

But, as we know, that did not happen. The *Mail* was then in the position of having to choose between its principles and its sales; if it had refused to cover the Games its rivals would have been able to steal a march on it, but if it sent its reporters what became of its admirable stand and its advice to the athletes? Much could be done (and, as I recall, was) with the argument that it is a newspaper's duty to report what happens, and that this does not imply approval; but it was perhaps felt that this was not quite enough. So in addition to its excellent sports writers the *Mail* engaged Mr Booker to go to Moscow and write about the Games, thus neatly inverting the old plot in which the fallen girl's immoral earnings pay for her virtuous sister's piano lessons.

As it turned out, the *Mail's* Ian Wooldridge, who had been opposed to the boycott, rose to the occasion in a notable manner (as anyone who knew his work would have expected, incidentally); it was his first dispatch from Moscow that nearly got the paper's team thrown out, not Mr Booker's. But the provenance of this book is unimportant; what matters is that the *Mail* had the wisdom to send its author to the Olympics with a simple brief: "Just record impressions of whatever catches your eye." Mr Booker, interpreting this to mean whatever caught his eye, his ear, his mind and his spirit, did the paper proud. Now, in this considered report, he has done us prouder. I have very rarely read a book by an author who combined the vividness and immediacy of the best eyewitness accounts with so searching an inquiry into the meaning of the things he saw, and emerged with so profound an understanding of its implications for us all.

As you may imagine, I have bathed very deep in the ocean of books about the Soviet Union and her empire; studies by Kremlinologists and historians, accounts by visitors and western residents, the testimony of those who have got out, the smuggled witness of those who remain, the *samizdat* chronicles that circulate there in conditions of such toil and danger. But I have read very few books indeed which go so far towards comprehending and making clear the true tragedy of Soviet communism; more—much more—it sets that tragedy in the context of a wider world bereft of any sense of a moral order, and underlines the terrible paradox of the fact that it is in the Soviet Union and the captive nations of her empire, groaning in travail, that that moral order is coming to birth, delivered by the movement of resistance to evil. The significance of Solzhenitsyn lies not least in this: that it was the Soviet Union, of which he is an almost exact contemporary, which produced him, an example of the anvil calling forth the hammer.

First, to my surprise and envy, Mr Booker turns out to be a reporter of considerable distinction. Here he is, for instance, leaving the stadium after the opening ceremony:

> At one point I had to push my way through a milling crowd of folk-costumed dancers who had already finished their performance inside. It was strange to see them close up. From a distance they had looked just like 'real folk dancers' from anywhere in the world. Now it was obvious that they had been heavily made up for the cameras. Many were smoking. Their 'traditional' costumes, which from afar had looked like brocaded satins, velvets and silks, turned out to be cheap modern affairs, made of artificial fibres. Apart from the high cheekbones and narrow eyes of the Uzbeks and Kirghiz, they reminded me of nothing so much as a crowd of extras from some costume spectacular, standing round a canteen at the BBC Television Centre.

A few seconds later, he turned the corner, "to be greeted by one of the most astonishing sights I have ever seen":

> On each side of the road ahead of us, making a lane only a few yards wide, stood thousands of soldiers, literally shoulder to shoulder. Each of them was staring ahead of him with a fixed, grim expression—and behind them, in groups, stood hundreds more. As we began to walk that gauntlet of stares, the most eerie thing of all was the complete silence. No one was uttering a word. The only sound was the shuffling footsteps of the Russians around me, as we walked on towards the metro station.

The book is full of such tiny, sharp portraits; it is also full of the excitement of the contests themselves (which were marred by blatant political cheating on the part of the Soviet judges and officials whenever the opportunity arose), and of such bizarre meetings of sport and politics as this:

> One of the events the Soviet Union was most confident of winning was the football competition. . . . The grand climax, the final . . . was scheduled as the last major sporting event of the Games, in the Lenin Stadium on Saturday afternoon. Last night, however, something untoward happened. In the fifteenth minute of a semi-final, a bad mistake by a Soviet footballer allowed the East Germans to score . . . the winning goal. As Ian Wooldridge . . . put it, 'it was quite extraordinary—the Soviet commentator appeared to see neither error nor goal. He just talked on in a flat, even tone, as if nothing had happened. . . .' Later in the evening, as the Radio Moscow commentator on television summed up another day of keen competition, there was somehow no mention of the fact that East Germany had knocked out the Soviet Union. The entire football competition had become the sporting equivalent of an 'un-person'.

Such items are more than good reporting which brings home to the reader what happened: they demonstrate, more clearly than would pages of polemic, the extraordinarily Martian quality of life in the Soviet Union. But it is what lies beneath the weird, unreal surface that gives Mr Booker his opportunity to turn his book from an excellent first-hand account of a visit to a strange planet into an almost indispensable guide to the larger truth.

For what Mr Booker has seen, and depicted with a superb command of insight, passion, pity and irony, is that of all the lies that the Soviet system is made of, the greatest is the claim that the individual human personality is of no importance beside the collective identity of the group. It is this stupendous aberration that has made possible the slaughter of millions upon millions, and led inevitably to the dreadful truth: that a system designed to usher in paradise upon earth, and to enable all men to live in brotherhood and plenty has turned into the most cruel and most rotten tyranny in the entire history of the world, beside which the inefficiency, the poverty, the corruption and the lesser lies are of no enduring significance.

From this, Mr Booker has gone on to two enormously important further conclusions. First, he has seen the terrible emptiness at the heart of Soviet society; the dulled, brutish despair that issues in such phenomena as the pandemic of alcoholism and the terrifying suicide figures. Second, he has seen the stirrings of a new, because very old, attempt to fill that emptiness. It is easy for an observer to stop looking into the heart of the Soviet Union as soon as he has seen and saluted the courage of those struggling to light a tiny flame of decency and justice. But behind that struggle there is a more important struggle going on, in some cases consciously, in others not yet.

It is to proclaim the truth that the Soviet lie denies—that individuals matter, and ultimately that nothing else matters at all. As Mr Booker puts it in his summing-up: "One of the themes which has run through this book is how much more *serious* a business life is in the East than it has become in the West". And he then makes plain exactly what he means by that, and as we read his words we may well give thanks to the Editor of the *Daily Mail* for having the good sense to send such a man to Moscow:

> It is one of the paradoxes of our time that it should have been Communism, by the very way it polarizes the most fundamental issues of human existence, which has produced so many men and women of real human stature. We only know of a few — Andrei Sakharov, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Karol Wojtyla—but behind them into the darkness stretch untold thousands more. It is Communism, the faith which denies human individuality, which has produced the individuals—because it crushes down so hard on its millions of enslaved victims that, although a great many are crushed, some are simply forced into finding that irreducible human core within themselves in order to survive.

LONDON DIARY

Lining up, the Hongkong improbables

The announcement that Sir Murray MacLehose intends to relinquish his post as Governor of Hongkong next year has thrown up the inevitable crop of names as his possible successor. The more likely ones you will have read elsewhere in this edition; allow me to list the also-rans before they disappear without trace.

There is of course Prince Charles, whose name constantly crops up in conversations about governorships, but I understand that Hongkong is not for him. It has always been regarded as rather small beer for a royal, and it could of course turn uncomfortably political in a year or two when we have to give serious consideration to the renegotiation of our lease with the Chinese. Australia remains the most likely choice for the heir to the throne.

Before Sir Murray made his plans known, one name being mentioned in Hongkong was that of Sir Anthony Royle, vice-chairman of the Conservative Party and MP for Richmond, who has announced his intention to retire from his parliamentary seat at the next election. On a recent visit to the colony, Sir Anthony denied that he would be taking over the post, but that was before Sir Murray unveiled his intention to retire.

Other diplomatic names that have turned up in the bottom of the hat are Sir Edward Youde and John Graham, deputy under-secretaries of state at the Foreign Office, and Sir Hugh Cortazzi and Sir Percy Cradock, our ambassadors in Tokyo and Peking.

Several political names have also emerged. The first is Edward Heath, but frankly I do not think Ted would want it. Another is Sir Ian Gilmour, the Lord Privy Seal and leading Tory wet: that I can understand, as any leading Tory wet with any sense must be hoisting his periscope regularly to scan the horizon for alternative job opportunities, just in case.

The third name is much more plausible, and I believe would have the support of a large section of the British people, notably, the trade union movement, smokers, drinkers, and drivers. It is being whispered in the bar of the Mandarin Hotel and on the first-class deck of the Star Ferry that the man could be Sir Geoffrey Howe.



Getting closer

The Pope's visit to Britain next year is already causing problems for the people at this end who are planning it, for the simple reason that no date has yet been announced. I can be of some small help here: I gather that the most likely date—now awaiting confirmation in Rome—is the end of May.

The official announcement is expected to come from Cardinal Hume, who is currently in Rome. He is, I am told, well aware of the difficulties building up because the precise date is not yet known. It has been discreetly conveyed to the Vatican that the British authorities will begin to get restless if something is not decided soon.

The recommended period of the visit—expected to last about five days—has been cleared with those involved at this end, including Buckingham Palace, 10 Downing Street, and the Archbishop of Canterbury. I gather the Buckingham Palace view was that any week would be fine as long as the visit did not clash with Goodwood, in late July.

Most of the trouble stems from the fact that the Vatican does not usually plan this far in advance; the exact dates of some previous papal visits have not become known until perilously close to the event. The Vatican has been told that the British like things a bit tidier than that.

Last journey

I have just got to the bottom of some strange goings-on at St Paul's Cathedral. They do not seem to have any connexion with the forthcoming high society wedding there.

What has happened is that a piece of London transport, not given to making return journeys, has left the City for the first and probably the last time. It is 21 feet long by 12 feet wide, weighs 18 tons and runs on six huge wheels.

This vehicle of singular ugliness has made only one previous journey, in 1852. It was built in 18 days. On its maiden and only voyage it sank into the mud in Pall Mall and had to be hauled out by 60 strong men.

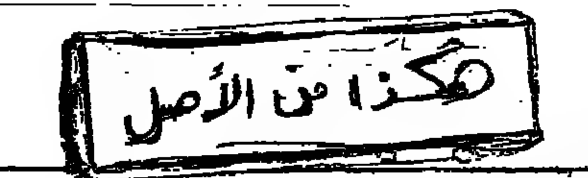
I watched it leave London last week. It was in pieces, all carefully covered by tarpaulins on the back of a large army lorry. For some reason the lorry was exhibiting learner-driver plates back and front.

I now know what it was. It was the carriage on which the Duke of Wellington's coffin was carried to St Paul's where, until last week, it was kept in the crypt. I suppose that, compared with Wellington, the young soldiers who drove it away were indeed learners. The reason I tell you this now is that yesterday they came back and took away the six enormous wheels.

The grandiose machine has been taken to Stratfield Saye in Hampshire, the home of the present Duke of Wellington, who will eventually put it on public display. In its place in St Paul's crypt will go Wren's large model for the new St Paul's. Until now the model has resided in the cathedral trophy room, and visitors had to seek special permission to view it.

A Loughborough businessman tells me that his VAT records have been transferred to the Customs and Excise office in Leicester: their address is Millstone Lane.

Alan Hamilton





P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

AN IRRELEVANT INQUIRY

It is a long-standing principle of British government that the Budget should remain shrouded in secrecy until the Chancellor rises to his feet in the House of Commons. This principle is based on the belief that the premature and selective disclosure of his intentions may give an unfair commercial or financial advantage to companies or individuals. To some extent that remains true, but to nothing like the degree that conventional wisdom would suggest. What is true is that Budget leaks may prove to be politically embarrassing. On this occasion the Prime Minister has been inconvenienced by the reports appearing before Budget day in some Sunday newspapers, particularly *The Sunday Times* and *The Observer*. That is why she has now ordered a security inquiry into the leaks.

But there is a world of difference between causing political embarrassment to the government of the day and damaging the national interest. It had not previously been suggested that these disclosures had damaged the national interest, especially as they were not the only premature disclosures of the Chancellor's intentions. Mrs Thatcher herself had earlier indicated that the standard rate of income tax would not be raised. Nor is this the first time in the life of this Government that Budget details had become public in advance. Attention has focused on these disclosures now essentially because of the other controversy over whether the full Cabinet should have been told earlier of Sir Geoffrey's Budget strategy.

As a means of dealing with the Government's own internal difficulties a security inquiry is an unnecessarily cumbersome instrument. It is also one which is liable to have damaging side effects. One of these is direct. As the subject matter of the annual Budget has become increasingly complex so the area of advance consultation has been extended to the point where it is virtually impossible to guarantee confidentiality on the old basis.

Such consultation is a necessary process if the details of taxation are to be thought out properly in advance. If the views of outside experts and special interests are not to be canvassed the consequence will be an increase in the number of ill-considered and impracticable proposals—and a multiplication of the shifts and changes which are so damaging to commerce and industry. It would therefore be a retrograde step if the area of prior consultation were now to be narrowed. Yet that will be the logical consequence if the Government puts the preservation of confidentiality at the top of its list of priorities.

The second potentially damaging side effect of this security inquiry is that it may divert attention from the much more important question of how the Cabinet ought to deal with the Budget. It is not just under Mrs Thatcher that the Chancellor has presented his proposals too late for the Cabinet as a whole to change its structure. The only reason why this has suddenly become such a contentious question is that there has never within memory been such a division on the Budget between the economic ministers and a substantial section of the Cabinet.

Yet the underlying question remains the same for this and for any other administration; should the effective decisions be left to a very small number of ministers for the sake of confidentiality, or does the Cabinet as a whole have the right to discuss the strategy that will govern so much of the government's operations while there is still time to change it? The principle of collective Cabinet responsibility surely suggests that this right should be paramount. But whatever position one holds on this issue, this is the question to which serious and responsible ministers should now be concentrating their attention. It is of long-term importance for the proper government of this country, and it is of immediate importance for confidence between ministers in the present administration. In setting up this security inquiry Mrs Thatcher has shown a loss of perspective. She has grasped the minor issue at the expense of the major one.

PROTECTING BRITAIN'S HERITAGE

The House of Lords has been chewing the cud of the Wildlife and Countryside Bill for more than three months. Its patient ruminations do not merely reflect the obvious truth that backwoodsmen know and care especially about the fate of the backwoods. The debates have seen sharp conflict between powerful and well-martialled pressure groups, and the outcome will affect not only those who hunt and farm, but also all who value the countryside—which is to say most of us. The Bill will profoundly influence the aspect of rural Britain, for better or worse, for many years to come.

The Government has given away little in the long contest. It has agreed to tighten the proposed licensing regulations for the killing of protected birds if they threaten the crops. It has reluctantly accepted the power to create marine nature reserves which its successors may know better how to use. But on the most important features of the Bill, the Government has remained adamant, even though it has scarcely had the best of the argument; and proceedings in the Commons may give it the opportunity to snatch back some of the concessions already exacted from it, in particular last night's defeat over footpath closures. But it would be a mistake to reopen this issue.

The question of footpaths seems as important now as it did when the Bill was first published. The Government wishes to end the right of appeal to the minister enjoyed today by objectors to proposed footpath closures. Landowning interests are often influential upon county councils, so that they cannot claim to be impartial judges in such cases. Almost half the proposals for closure which go to the minister each year are turned down, so that the right of appeal is by no means a minor safeguard. The Government conceded in committee that inquiries in contested cases should be heard by inspectors employed by the minister, but that is not enough if the final decision is in the hands of the council. Our ancient network of rights-of-way enables the visitor to enter the landscape in a way which is impossible in many countries, and it is quite wrong to weaken the safeguards which protect this heritage.

The balance of argument on the most significant question of all has shifted even while the Lords have been deliberating. Farming operations in areas of special value for nature conservation can destroy the very qualities that give them their value. But this Government, like its predecessors, is quite properly reluctant to impose compulsion on farmers. It seeks in the Bill to take compulsory powers only in a selected few of the sites designated as of special scientific interest (SSSIs)—perhaps only fifty at a time out of the nearly 4,000 which cover 5 per cent of our land area. In towns, of course, planning controls with penalties are familiar, and there is no difference in principle between the urban and the rural case; the argument turns on need and practicality. If voluntary arrangements are reasonably successful, there is no need for compulsion.

It has seemed in recent years that voluntary arrangements could work sufficiently well in the country. Management agreements have had some success in arresting the encroachment of ploughing and forestry upon Exmoor. But since the Bill was published, the Nature Conservancy Council has issued figures indicating that serious damage or destruction of SSSIs has been running at 10 per cent a year, and at 30 per cent in some counties. This cannot go on.

Government spokesmen in the Lords have virtually admitted at times that ideally the powers they propose for their super-SSSIs (a concept still in search of a negotiable acronym) should apply to all 4,000 sites. But they claim this is ruled out by cost and the risk of antagonizing farmers. It is less clear why they have resisted requiring owners to give advance notice of major changes in farming practice in all SSSIs—especially since such changes there and in the National Parks already have to be notified in advance if an agricultural grant is sought, as it almost always is.

Advance notice would at least give time for negotiation. It is plainly essential. The question of wider compulsion is difficult. The conservation bodies would never in the foreseeable future have the resources to impose management agreements or compulsory-purchase more than a very few of the SSSIs that come under threat, even if they had compulsory powers. To that extent, compulsion might seem irrelevant. But the Government's two-tier system, with compulsion for the super-SSSIs alone, would be more clumsy and inflexible in operation than a system leaving it to the discretion of the conservation bodies to impose terms, subject to appeal and the limits on their resources—and there seems little reason why one method should raise any more antagonism in the farming community than the other.

WELCOME TO NIGERIA'S PRESIDENT

President Shehu Shagari of Nigeria arrives in London today. His visit, which follows that of Lord Carrington to Nigeria in February, is welcome and could bring useful results. Britain's standing in Nigeria has been declining for some years. The United States is now the major western influence there. The Americans have a direct interest in Nigerian oil, and their federal institutions inspired Nigeria's new civilian constitution. This has advantages for Britain because everyone will be thankful if American federalism is more successful than the British-made constitution of 1960 in solving Nigeria's problems. Yet Britain needs a close understanding with Africa's most powerful state.

In spite of internal stresses and divisions, Nigerians are at one in their belief that Nigeria must be the leader in African affairs. Sheer size, population and oil wealth have enabled Nigeria to take the position which Mr Nkrumah once planned for Ghana. First and foremost this means the assertion of African rights. During Mr Smith's rule in Rhodesia, Britain was under pressure from a number of African countries, but Nigeria emerged as the most important voice once it had ended its own civil war.

Britain is now off that uncomfortable hook, after no little damage to its commercial interests. The President's visit therefore offers an opportunity to discuss Britain's position on Namibia before the Security Council considers the General Assembly's call for sanctions against South Africa. The difficulties in responding to the Assembly's tactical move, not least for neighbouring African states, are doubtless understood in Nigeria, which probably expects a veto and will not be unduly annoyed—though for the record it may blame the West. But Britain could help by putting forward guidelines for working towards a Namibian settlement.

The Nigerians are a practical and business-minded people: President Shagari's style is empirical. Nigeria is again a democracy and its leadership (still essentially in Northern hands) can understand the problems of democratic governments operating under the rule of law—even, perhaps, in the field of sport. There is no reason why mutual sympathies, rooted in long shared experience and a large Nigerian presence in Britain, should not be strengthened in the period ahead. An atmosphere of political cordiality might also help British commercial interests to arrest their slide from predominance in Nigeria's important and highly competitive markets.

Royal College of Art

From Mr A. A. Bridgewater

Sir, Having only returned to this country from Australia on Friday, March 13, my response to Lord Queensberry's letter is rather late. His letter (March 11) may shed some light on why I, for one, felt obliged to resign as a lay member of the Council of the Royal College of Art.

He regrets that we have not been seen wandering through the college departments but overlooks the hours of consultation and discussion, both private and formal, in which we have been engaged. He also overlooks our day-to-day professional contact with the world of graphic and industrial design, not to mention our personal friendships with teaching members of staff. He assumes that our attitude has been constrictive rather than constructive and supportive and, most crucially, he overlooks the fact that the Council carries the ultimate financial and management responsibility and therefore requires clear information on which to base its decisions.

The obscurity of the decision-making process, which for the past three years lay members of the Council have been trying to improve, has made it impossible for me to fulfil my responsibilities as a lay member of Council, particularly at a time when the college is making claims on taxpayers' millions for new buildings and resources which must be competing with funds for hospitals and schools.

Yours, etc,
A. A. BRIDGEWATER,
5 Chaucer Road,
Cambridge.
March 16.

Tunnicliffe collection

From Lady Anglesey

Sir, It is a great encouragement to learn (Dennis Mahon's letter of March 10) that the way is still open to meet both Charles Tunnicliffe's expressed wish in regard to his measured drawings and sketchbooks and to enable the beneficiaries to cope with the heavy capital transfer tax that must be found.

I know from personal conversation with three of those concerned that this would be a happy outcome for them as well as for other admirers of his work.

Yours faithfully,
SHIRLEY ANGLESEY,
Plas Newydd,
Llanfairpwll,
Isle of Anglesey.
March 10.

West's global strategy

From Mr H. E. Fenton

Sir, Can Mr Luard (March 12) explain why, if the Soviet Union and Cuba provide arms for regimes in South Yemen, Ethopia, and Afghanistan, we should be expected not to send arms to the regime in El Salvador?

Yours faithfully,
H. E. FENTON,
4 Raby Place, Bath.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Safe disposal of radioactive waste

From Miss Marion Hill

Sir, Professor Robert Hinde (March 13) has unfortunately failed to understand the objectives of our work on radioactive waste management, and in doing so has misrepresented our results.

The report he refers to (NRPB-108: see *The Times* article, February 17) is one of a series in which we describe our preliminary radiological assessments of the methods which have been proposed for disposal of high-level radioactive waste. The principal aim of these assessments is to provide guidance for the research into waste disposal by identifying those areas where further knowledge is required before each of the methods can be fully evaluated.

When the research has been completed it will be possible to carry out more comprehensive radiological assessments, the results of which will form one of the inputs to a decision on which disposal method to adopt.

Thus our recommendations for further research do not imply that no "safe" method for disposal of high-level waste exists nor that none is ever likely to be discovered. They indicate only that there is insufficient information at present to decide which of the options under consideration is the most acceptable.

Yours faithfully,
MARION D. HILL,
National Radiological Protection Board,
Harwell, Oxfordshire.
March 13.

Policy on Ulster

From Mr John D. Taylor, MEP for Northern Ireland (Ulster Unionist)

Sir, I do not know who the Unionists are whom your London correspondent, Mr Frank Millar, claims to represent in his letter (March 13).

However, I must correct him and emphasize that Ulster Unionists here in Northern Ireland have as their main constitutional objective the return of a devolved legislative parliament.

Mr Millar's request "for Ulster to be governed in accordance with the principles and practices that obtain in England, Scotland and Wales" is in contradiction with the policy for devolution as pursued by Ulster Unionists. There is no devolved institution in England, Wales or even Scotland.

As the four main political parties in Northern Ireland—Ulster Unionist, Democratic Unionist, SDLP and Alliance—all campaign for devolution for Ulster, the Prime Minister and our Secretary of State, Mr Humphrey Atkins, MP, would be best advised to concentrate upon this system of government, which is one of the few issues which has common ground amongst the much divided and polarized political parties in the province.

Certainly as Member for Northern Ireland in Europe I recognize the advantage that devolution would be for Ulster's requirements within the EEC.

Yours etc,
JOHN D. TAYLOR,
Ulster Unionist Headquarters,
3 Glengall Street, Belfast.
March 13.

Canada's Constitution

From Dr James McConica

Sir, As a Canadian living in England, I was happy this morning (March 9) to read the letters of Messrs Leslie Millin and Tom McNally, MP, about the Canadian constitutional issue.

Canada is possessed of a sovereign Parliament, and the Canadian people are by now quite practised in the art of a self-government. Although the spirit of nationalism and independence has grown enormously since the Second World War, it is probably also true that most Canadians feel, as I do, an historic and even filial respect for the Parliament at Westminster which is the mother of our own. But the time when that Parliament might expect an intervention in the domestic affairs of Canada to be received by Canadians as an exercise of superior wisdom is long since past.

I share Mr Millin's alarm that even intelligent, well-informed friends in this country often do not seem to realize this. When the Canadian request is received it must be passed speedily, whatever its nature (and with whatever reservations privately expressed), so that the responsibility for its shortcomings will fall squarely on the Parliament in Ottawa where it belongs. Mr McNally states the matter conservatively, I believe, when he says that any other action will "set us on a road fraught with dangers". We in Canada have quite enough problems to get on with, already.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES McCONICA,
All Souls College,
Oxford.
March 9.

After the New Cross fire

From Mr K. R. Prowen

Sir, Many sincere people are concerned that several weeks have passed since the terrible fire in New Cross without findings being announced, but the charge that the police are suppressing evidence must be challenged. Local clergy are aware of the means used by the police to ensure the accuracy and, importantly, the entirety of the evidence. When the story is told, black and white residents in Britain may trust it. If the facts do not harmonize with any previously held political or social fixations, that is a separate matter.

In the meantime, the black and white brothers and sisters in Christ who form the interdenominational chain of churches in Lewisham (of which New Cross is a part) continue to build upon their affection for each other.

Yours faithfully,
K. R. PROWEN,
Secretary, Lewisham Federation of Churches,
36 Parsonage Lane,
North Cray,
Kent.
March 12.

Budget choices: restraint or rebirth?

From Professor A. R. Ubbelohde, FRS

Sir, Your leading article on the Budget (March 13) rightly complains about the way current monetary provisions conceal our real task, which is to create more real wealth, not just push paper about. This faceless monetarism fails to release our powers of responding to adversity. After the devastating Fire of London in 1666, Christopher Wren worked his way through to his triumphant epitaph, by clearing away the rubble and building afresh. After the devastation of 1942-45, Western Germany recreated her national potential by rebuilding what was needed. We in Britain have surely inherited enough physical desolation from obsolete industrial activities of the past century to accept a comparable challenge for creative rebuilding. But it must be clearly presented.

Using our unique though transient benefits from North Sea oil and from our natural gas, we should already be spending freely on a reconstruction Budget, which would concentrate on our present unique opportunities for creative building. There is plenty of choice of targets, but it would be difficult to omit from a list of "out of the ordinary" tasks such projects as the reclamation of obsolete dockland in more than one part of the country, the restoration of more than one city heartland, and the bringing back to national use industrial wasteland left by more than one formerly lucrative industry. In addition there are clamorous demands for better transportation of wealth to where it is needed. We should be electrifying our railways, using nuclear energy to carry the enhanced base load, and be reducing our fuel consumption by improving our pipelines, our road systems, and our airports. We should support more speculative wealth creative ventures such as the Channel Tunnel and the Severn Barrage.

Of course abnormal expenditure on such heartening means of increasing the real wealth and amenities of our great country must not be allowed to trickle away into supporting unearned petty comforts which so many of us have become used to, and which we are rightly admonished to forego until better times. But it is unforgivable that monetarist paper-pushing procedures, required to monitor austerity in consumer expenditure, should be allowed to smother urgent and humanly exciting tasks of construction. We have the energy resources—where is the leadership to channel them into acceptable uses?

I am, etc,
A. R. UBBELOHDE,
Department of Chemical Engineering and Chemical Technology,
Imperial College,
Prince Consort Road, SW7.
March 13.

From Professor Lord Kaldor, FBA

Sir, The Prime Minister, in an impromptu speech reported in your issue of March 12, said that her Government "has taken the wise and the moral course and I will challenge anyone who takes the contrary view".

I am sure there must be many qualified economists who are ready to take up this challenge. In my view—and I am sure that this is shared by a large number of my professional colleagues—the Prime Minister is wholly mistaken in her belief that she has taken "the wise and the moral course". Her case, as far as I can make out from your report, rests on two propositions. First, that an increase in deficit spending "would have stifled and strangled at birth any rebuilding of stocks or any expansion of industry and investment that we might have had"; second, that additional expenditure without an addition to taxation means that we "put a pair of bellows on to the rate of inflation we have now and make it a really big, raging furnace".

Both these propositions assume that additional Government expenditure, whether financed out of taxation or borrowing, reduces the amount of resources available to the private sector, whether for consumption or investment. But this is only true in circumstances in which the productive capacity of the economy, both labour and physical capital, is fully employed. It is manifestly untrue in the context of the British economy of 1981 where (a) there are two and a half million unemployed; (b) industrial capacity is under-utilized to the extent of at least 25-33 per cent; (c) the balance of payments is in surplus and there is no immediate need to restrict economic activity for the sake of maintaining the exchange rate.

In these circumstances increased Government loan expenditure, whether secured by extra spending or lower taxation, will increase the level of production and employment in much the same way as an increase in export demand or an increase in private investment. In each case the consequential increase in national income and output will be greater than the primary increase in expenditure (due to the well-known principle of the "multiplier") so that the savings available for private investment will be enlarged, not diminished, as a result.

Mrs Thatcher evidently denies the validity of these propositions, and would (presumably) argue that increased public sector borrowing is per se "inflationary" unless it is accompanied by a sufficient increase in the rate of interest that would reduce private investment in fixed capital or stocks sufficiently to leave the level of income and employment unchanged.

But there is no truth whatsoever in this latter proposition. When resources are under-utilized an increase in demand, irrespective of whether it originates at home or abroad, in the public or the private sector, will increase production and not prices—indeed it may cause a decrease in prices since a higher output in industry is associated with a decrease in unit costs. Apart from the case where a rise in import demand is allowed to lead to an excessive fall in the exchange rate, a rise in costs and prices can only occur as a result of higher wage demands—but a rise in interest rates offers no guarantee against a cost inflation caused by excessive increases in money wages; even the exceptional contraction of the demand for labour in the past twelve months only served to moderate wage-induced inflation and not to eliminate it.

Nor is it correct to suppose that larger loan expenditures, whether by the public or the private sector, will cause an increase in the "money supply" which is *per se* inflationary. The basic fallacy here is in the supposition that an increase in the amount of money in circulation—whether this is taken to be bank notes and coins, or of M1 or M3 or any other range of financial assets—can be the cause, as distinct from the consequence, of an increase in total incomes and expenditures. Indeed an increase in output brought about by deficit spending under conditions of an excess supply of available resources is no more inflationary than an increase in output resulting from the "normal" growth of a capitalist economy. As last year's events have shown, an accelerated growth of M3 may well be the *result* of imposing higher interest rates and may be associated with a falling rate of inflation.

No one doubts the depth and sincerity of the Prime Minister's convictions. Is it too much to ask that she should apply her mind to a better understanding of how a capitalist economy works?

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS KALDOR,
King's College,
Cambridge.
March 13.

From Mr P. R. R. Coad

Sir, Mr Ryves writes today (March 13) that he is cancelling his subscription to the Conservative Party in view of Sir Geoffrey Howe's Budget.

With an unindexed pension based upon pre-1973 values as my main source of income, the purchasing power of which is now about one third of the values of those days, my one hope of keeping any value in my remaining income from this source is in the Prime Minister's determination to slow down the rate of inflation.

I propose to increase my subscription to the Conservative Party.

Yours faithfully,
P. R. R. COAD,
The Reform Club,
Pall Mall, SW1.
March 13.

Moorland preservation

From Dr J. E. L. Butterfield and others

Sir, Is Dr Thomas (March 11) correct in stating that the natural vegetation of Britain is woodland and forest from sea level to near the mountain tops? No responsible scientist would deny that this was the situation at some time after the end of the last glaciation.

However, the disappearance of trees from many upland areas coincided with two events. The climate changed to one which was probably colder, windier and wetter, all factors which, directly or indirectly, tend to inhibit tree survival at high altitudes. At the same time, man's activities, grazing domestic animals and burning vegetation, started to make an impact in uplands.

The relative effects of these two events must remain a matter of opinion, and it is possible that their importance varied from area to area within Britain. Nevertheless, the establishment of woodland on high altitude uplands is, at the present time, a thankless task.

The disappearance of trees in upland areas resulted in the expansion of a typical tundra flora and fauna, with strong similarities with those in Arctic and sub-arctic areas of Scandinavia. This change is not a degradation and refutes Dr Thomas' previous reference to moorlands as "biological slums" (*The Times*, April 24, 1980). Dr Thomas must get his facts right before he makes sweeping statements. We leave it, Sir, to your readers to decide whether they prefer to walk through agricultural land or the wild, natural tundra of upland Britain, along routes such as the Pennine Way.

Yours faithfully,
JENNIFER BUTTERFIELD,
J. C. COULSON,
V. STANDEN,
Department of Zoology,
University of Durham,
Science Laboratories,
South Road,
Durham.
March 13.

Setting for royal wedding

From Mr Terence Wincott

Sir, I agree with Mr Farahar (March 12) that the extra seating available in St Paul's would be an inadequate reason, were it the only one, for using that church for the royal wedding in preference to Westminster Abbey. But what nonsense it is for him to suggest that St Paul's represents the ceremony's demotion because it lacks the Abbey's "historical and more recent links with royalty and the fabric of our heritage"—whatever that means!

Since its completion in 1710 St Paul's, on the site of which there have stood cathedrals for thirteen hundred years, has witnessed quite enough history, as well as royal links, to deserve being chosen for July 29. It has been the focus of national celebration of royal jubilees; of thanksgiving for peace in 1945; of mourning for our best-loved heroes, Nelson, Wellington and Churchill, and the resting place of two of them, as well as many other famous names.

It is, of course, London's cathedral and the first church of the land, and it is a building of unequalled majesty and loveliness. There is no finer place for the wedding of the Heir to the Throne.

Yours faithfully,
TERENCE WINCOTT,
14 Eton Avenue, NW3.
March 14.

Strikers who abuse the law

From Professor P. S. Atiyah, FBA

Sir, I am due to leave my house shortly for a flight to Canada via Heathrow. I am informed by *The Times* this morning (March 13) that immigration and customs staff at Heathrow will be working to rule and that long delays are expected.

This is supposed to be "strictly enforcing customs law and regulations". On the contrary, it seems the clearest possible abuse of the law.

Customs and immigration staff have legal powers over their fellow citizens conferred upon them by Parliament. Where these powers confer discretion, it is manifest that the discretion must be exercised in good faith for the purposes for which the powers have been conferred.

If the legal immunities enjoyed by those taking part in a trade dispute extend to the illegal detention of citizens going about their lawful ways, then we have indeed reached a sorry pass. The abuse of private power is serious enough in all conscience; but the abuse of public power is intolerable in a democracy.

Yours faithfully
P. S. ATIYAH,
The Old Rectory,
Middleton Stoney,
Oxfordshire.
March 13.

From Mr W. Wright

Sir, The answer to Sir Miles Clifford (March 11) is of course that if the Government gave to its civil servants the same treatment it has promised the police and the armed forces, civil servants would not need to strike.

Yours faithfully,
W. WRIGHT,
Deputy General Secretary,
The Institution of Professional Civil Servants,
Northumberland Street, WC2.
March 12.

Unlicensed to quote

From Mr John le Carré

Sir, Last night (March 11) on the Independent Television programme *News at Ten*, I was quoted by name as saying that Sir Maurice Oldfield was the model for my fictional character, George Smiley. I have never in my life made such a statement, least of all on the day of Sir Maurice's sad death.

Within a few minutes of the news announcement, therefore, I telephoned the producers of the programme, and a spokesman told me that his information was derived from an interview I had purportedly given to the *Radio Times* two years ago. He conceded that I had in fact given no such interview, and that his researchers had made an error, but he insisted that beyond offering their apologies there was nothing they could do about it. That is the third inaccuracy. It is open to the producers at any time to enlighten the very large public they have misinformed. That they choose not to do so is their decision.

The truth, once and for all, is this. I never heard of Sir Maurice, either by name or in any other way, until long after the name and character of George Smiley were in print. I knew him, whether by reputation or personally, scarcely at all. Our social contact, such as it was, occurred after his retirement, and amounted to a couple of lunches, over which he was inclined to rebuke me, albeit amiably, for what he regarded as the unflattering portrait I had given of his former Service. At his request, I once produced Sir Alec Guinness for him, for the good reason that he had always been, in his modest way, one of Sir Alec's many fans. Sir Maurice was tickled pink.

ITN did not need to know any of this, though if they had bothered to ask me, they could have found it out. Instead of that, they preferred to run a totally untrue story and quote myself as the source of it. Foreign broadcasting and press agencies are already having a ball with it. Meanwhile, ITN claims the immunity of the box.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LE CARRE,
C/o John Farquharson Limited,
Bell House, Bell Yard, WC2.
March 12.

Flying bottles

From Mr Peter Walters

Sir, Your leading article on duty-free goods (March 11) overlooks one important fact: namely that the price of duty-free items varies considerably between different airports. At some, notably in the Far East and Middle East, large savings can be made by purchasing duty-free items, whilst at others, eg Heathrow, only relatively modest savings are made.

Yours faithfully,
P. R. WALTERS,
49 Disraeli Road,
Ealing, W5.
March 11.

The awkward squad

From Mr Laurence Cotterell

Sir, Discussing *The Romans in Britain*, Bernard Levin (article, March 11) perpetuates the error made some years ago by a modish playwright airing his misknowledge of the military scene, mangling "swaddy"—a traditional nickname for the private soldier—into "squaddie".

The term probably derives from "swadeshi", a Bengali word meaning "native country", which was adopted by an Indian protest movement of other days. Its members became known as "swaddies" to soldiers of the Raj, in a slightly pejorative but good-humoured context, and it was inevitable that the term would eventually be applied opprobriously to British rankers whose appearance or performance on parade was less than perfect.

Yours faithfully,
LAURENCE COTTERELL,
121 St Paul's Wood Hill,
St Paul's Cray,
Kent.
March 12.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 16: The Queen today opened the Equine Virology Unit at the Laboratories of the Animal Health Trust at Lanwades Park, near Newmarket, where Her Majesty was received by the Vice-Lord-Lieutenant for Suffolk (Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Goodwin) and the President of the Trust (the Duke of Devonshire).

After unveiling a commemorative plaque The Queen toured the Laboratories, escorted by the Director of the Trust (Mr W. B. Singleton) and later visited the Equine Research Station at Balaton Lodge.

The Right Hon Sir Philip Moore, Lord Porchester and Mr Michael Oswald were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Colonel-in-Chief, The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, visited the Regiment at Bhurtpore Barracks, Tidworth and was received by the Colonel of the Regiment (Major-General J. M. Strawson).

His Royal Highness, attended by Major John Cargin, travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

CLARENCE HOUSE
March 16: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this morning attended the Irish Guards' St Patrick's Day Parade at Chelsea Barracks.

Ruth, Lady Fermoy and Captain Ashe Windham were in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 16: The Duke of Kent, Patron of the British Computer Society, was present at a luncheon given for the Prime Minister at 13 Mansfield Street, W1.

Lieutenant-Commander Richard Buckley, RN, was in attendance.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother is to visit Canada for six days in July to see her three regiments and to take part in bicentennial celebrations of the town of Niagara.

Princess Alexandra will attend the luncheon being given by the BUPA Medical Foundation and present the "Doctor of the Year" award at the Savoy Hotel, London, on April 29.

Officers and members of the United Kingdom branch of the National Party of Nigeria welcome Alhaji Shehu Shagari, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to London on the occasion of his state visit to the United Kingdom.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C. J. Johnson-Gilbert and Miss E. D. M. Woodhouse
The engagement is announced between Christopher Ian, son of Mr and Mrs T. I. Johnson-Gilbert, of 5 Blenheim Road, London, NW8, and Emma Davina Mary, daughter of the Hon C. M. Woodhouse, D.S.O., O.B.E., and Lady Davina Woodhouse, of Willow Cottage, Latimer, Chesham, Bucks.

Mr A. M. S. Gibbs and Miss A.-L. Hervey
The engagement is announced between Alexander, youngest son of the late Patrick Somerset Gibbs and Lady Lathbury, of Mortimer, Berkshire and Anne-Louise, younger daughter of Wing Commander and Mrs C. P. V. Hervey, of Farringdon, Hampshire.

Mr R. A. Dawson and Miss A. L. Dauban
The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of Mr and Mrs J. S. Dawson, of West Bridgford, Nottingham, and Annette, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs D. C. Dauban, of Nottingham.

Mr H. Farrell and Miss J. Booth
The engagement is announced between Hugh, elder son of Mr and Mrs T. P. Farrell, of Bryn Eglwys, Valley, Anglesey, and Jennifer, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs R. O. Booth, of Waynecroft, Wilmslow, Cheshire.

Mr G. B. Hirst and Miss L. R. Pesate
The engagement is announced between Gregory, elder son of Mr and Mrs B. Hirst, of Pocklington, York, and Lydia, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Pesate, of Hampstead.

Mr C. Murphy and Miss G. McNamee
The engagement is announced between Christopher, elder son of Gerard and Patricia Murphy, and Gina, eldest daughter of John and Judith McNamee.

Mr R. P. Mountford and Miss J. R. Stanton
The engagement is announced between Roger, youngest son of Mr S. W. A. Mountford and the late Mrs Mountford, of Fetcham, Surrey, and Jane, daughter of Canon E. E. and Mrs Stanton, of Tenterden, Kent.

Mr P. A. Smith and Miss R. K. Pear
The engagement is announced between Paul, elder son of Mr and Mrs R. A. Smith, of Morningside, Edinburgh, and Rachel, daughter of Professor and Mrs R. H. Pear, of the Park, Nottingham.

Mr J. D. Wootton, RE, and Miss S. E. Sole
The engagement is announced between John, elder son of Mr and Mrs David Wootton, of Gwentlands Close, Chepstow, Gwent, and Sarah, daughter of Brigadier and Mrs Denis Sole, the Old Vicarage, Bodenham, Herefordshire.

Today's engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh meet the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on his arrival for a state visit to the United Kingdom, Victoria, 12.30.

The Duke of Edinburgh attends premiere of film, *Ability is Where You Look For It*, and views exhibition sponsored by Opportunities for the Disabled, Britannic House, Moor Lane, 3.

Early spring flower show, Royal Horticultural Society's Hall, Vincent Square, 11.30-6.

Court of Aldermen meets, Guildhall, 12.45.

Lectures: Van Dyck, Simon Wilson, Tate Gallery, 1; The scribe in ancient Egypt, George Hart, British Museum, 11.30; The pyramids of Giza, 1.15; Nadia Boulanger, Sir Lennox Berkeley, British Institute of Recorded Sound, 29 Exhibition Road, 7.30; Shostakovich's "Testimony", Martin Cooper, Pushkin Club, 46 Ladbroke Grove, 7.30; Maxine Hong Kingston on her books, ICA, The Mall, 1; Fine glass in medieval Persia, Dr Michael Rogers, British Museum, 6.15.

Lunchtime music: Brass ensemble directed by Buxton Orr, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Barbican, 1; Marisa Robles, harp, Fairfield Halls, Croydon, 1.05; Frans Schubert String Quartet, Bishopsgate Music Society, Bishopsgate Hall, 230 Bishopsgate; Jing Ying soloists play Chinese instruments, Hammersmith Town Hall, 12-12.30.

Birthdays today

Lady (Megan) Bull, 59; Vice-Admiral Sir Donald Gibson, 65; Lord Granville-West, 77; Major-General Sir Edmund Hakewill Smith, 85; Baroness Hornsby-Smith, 67; Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Edmond Joly de Lotbinière, 78; Mr Robin Knox-Johnson, 42; Mr Rudolf Nureyev, 42; Sir Patrick Reilly, 72.

Floral Luncheon

The annual Floral Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, May 13, at the Savoy Hotel to raise funds for the Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts Workshops. The president is Mr Frederick Cleary and the chairman is the Marchioness of Ailesbury. The speakers this year will be Miss Barbara Kelly and Mr Bernard Levin.

Naval promotion

Rear-Admiral J. M. H. Cox, Flag Officer Third Flotilla, is to be promoted vice-admiral on April 4.

Luncheons

HM Government
Mr Peter Blaker, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host at a luncheon given in honour of the Sri Lankan High Commissioner at 1 Carlton Gardens yesterday.

British Computer Society
The Duke of Kent, patron of the British Computer Society was host at an informal luncheon for the Prime Minister held at the society's headquarters yesterday. The president, Mr F. J. Hooper, with officers of the society and representatives of the society's membership, were also present.

Institute of Taxation
Mr John F. Avery Jones, president of the Institute of Taxation, was host at a luncheon held at Barber Surgeon's Hall yesterday. Mr Nigel Lawson, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, was the principal guest. Among others present were:
Lord Croham, Mr Joel Barnett, MP, Mr Robert Sheldon, MP, the Hon P. L. Brooke, MP, Sir Ian Percival, MP, Sir William Clark, MP, Sir Lawrence Airey, Sir Douglas Lovelock, Sir Ian Morrow, Mr Peter Rees, MP, Mr W. J. Hopper, MEP, Mr H. H. Monroe, QC, Mr K. G. Addison, Mr J. Bishton, Mr J. Clark, Mr E. M. A. Cummins, Mr R. Du Cann, QC, Mr E. J. Gilliland, Mr T. J. R. Hickmott, Mr E. S. Kirk, Mr D. Vander Weyer and Mr R. Wilkes.

Old Bedford Modernians' Club
The annual London luncheon of the Old Bedford Modernians' Club was held at the House of Commons yesterday. Mr P. J. King was in the chair and the guests were Mr P. J. Squire, Headmaster of Bedford Modern School, and Mr Keith Speed, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Royal Navy, who sponsored the luncheon.

Dinners

Plumbers' Company
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs and Professor Sir George Porter, Director of the Royal Institution of Great Britain, were the guests of honour at a livery dinner given by the Plumbers' Company at the Mansion House yesterday. The Master, Mr D. P. Thomson, presided, and the Lord Mayor, the Upper Warden, Mr A. J. Young and Sir George Porter also spoke. Among others present were:
The Earl of Limerick, the Earl of Caithness, the Bishop of Ely, Lord Gibson, Lord Chalfont, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Julian Paget, Mr Justice Lloyd, Sir Campbell Adamson, Sir Brooks Richards, Sir Peter Hope, the Prime Wardens of the Fishmongers' and Blacksmiths' Companies and the Masters of the Cutlers', Carpenters' and Tylers' Companies.

British-Israel Chamber of Commerce
The British-Israel Chamber of Commerce celebrated its thirtieth anniversary at a dinner at the Savoy Hotel yesterday. The guest of honour was the Secretary of State for Industry, Sir Keith Joseph.

Reception

Prime Minister
The Prime Minister was host at a reception at 10 Downing Street yesterday evening in honour of delegates from overseas branches of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association attending the thirtieth Parliamentary Seminar 1981.

A say for the viewers on channel 4

By Kenneth Gosling

Regular weekly "right to reply" programmes are to be broadcast on the fourth television channel, due to take the air in November next year.

"The kind of nonsense row the BBC got into with the British Medical Association will not happen", Mr Jeremy Isaacs, chief executive of Channel Four, told the Institute of Public Relations in London yesterday. He also announced that viewers would be able to have their opinions aired on a regular basis.

Barry Took (presenter of *Points of View* on BBC television) was a pleasant man with a nice little programme; but a page of letters to the editor was something television had been crying out for for years. "It is sorely needed, but has been consistently ignored or trivialized", he said.

He also promised "great chunks of air time" for women: "I have had an angry time in the last few years from women saying television does them down."

He would see how they got on, he said, adding that they would not have carte blanche, but would be subject to the same process of programme selection as anyone else. However, two of the first three appointments on the channel's programme side had been of women.

He also promised programmes that would reflect the multiracial nature of society, business news, both daily and weekly, and encouragement for programmes to attract young people.

Merger proposed: Mr John Grist, until recently the BBC's director in the United States, has been given the job of merging two old-established bodies—the British Forces Broadcasting Service and the Services Kinema Corporation.

The proposal to combine the two was first made some years ago but was reported to have had a cool reception from the BFBS. Now it has been decided that the plan should go through in the interests of economy and efficiency, to take effect in April next year, provided a scheme is agreed.

£16,000 paid for 27in enamel horse

By A Staff Reporter

A large cloisonné enamel model of a horse dating from the end of the eighteenth century fetched £16,000 at Christie's yesterday, compared with an estimate of £1,200 to £1,800.

The horse, from the Qianlong-Jiaqing periods, is decorated with red, white and black patches scattered over a yellow background and measures 27in wide.

Mr James Spencer, a director in Christie's Chinese works of art department, said: "The price was so high because it is very rare indeed to have a horse of this kind that size, and it is a charming object, easy to live with."

The horse was bought by Sparks, the London dealers. Many other objects also made good prices, including less rare items, and the 322 lots brought in a grand total of £317,395, with 10 per cent unsold.

Another high price, showing the general buoyancy of the market, was £12,000 paid by Spink and Son, the London dealers, for a Canton *famille rose* part dinner service from the Jiaqing period (1796-1820).

The service, which is of a fairly common kind that has not been selling very well in the last 18 months, was estimated to make £7,000 to £10,000.

The top price was £22,000, paid by Heirloom and Howard, the London dealers, for a tureen in the shape of a cockerel and oval quatrefoil stand, in bright greens, blues, yellows and reds. One foot is chipped and the stand has been restored.

The piece was one of nearly 30 lots comprising a *famille rose* armorial dinner service made in the Qianlong period (1736-95) for the Spanish market. Each piece bears the arms of a noble Basque family, the Asteguietas, from the village of Legarda, in the parish of Foronda.

Also in the set was another tureen, this time in the shape of a goose, with oval quatrefoil stand, which fetched £14,000, again paid by Heirloom and Howard.

Victorian silver made strong prices at Christie's South Kensington yesterday. A Victorian George II-style boatshaped cruet, 33oz, made in London in 1893 was sold for £720 to S. Silverman, the London dealers.

At Phillips's sale of modern British pictures, a watercolour by Dame Laura Knight, RA, "Early spring", signed in pencil, fetched £1,900. It was shown at the Royal Academy in 1917. In the first day of a sale of printed books at Sotheby's a copy of "Coloured Views on the Liverpool and Manchester Railway", by Thomas Talbot Bury, with 16 hand-coloured plates and printed in 1832, made £1,900.



The Cloisonné enamel model of a horse sold for £16,000.

Three newcomers chosen for British bridge team

By Our Bridge Correspondent

The second half of the British Bridge League trials to determine the team for the European championship at Birmingham in July was held in London last weekend. The leading 16 pairs from the first trial were formed into 14, which then played matches against each other. Two teams were outstanding and after two matches of 24 boards against each of the other teams there was just one victory point between them.

Results: 1, I. N. Rose, R. M. Sheehan, W. J. Pencharz, R. S. Brock, 79; 2, J. D. R. Collings, P. Hackett, A. P. Sowter, S. J. Lodge, 78; 3, G. T. Kirby, J. M. Armstrong, H. W. Kelsey, J. Mcalonagle, 59; 4, B. Marvis, A. Calderwood, C. P. Dixon, V. Silverstone, 53.

After a protracted meeting the selectors announced that the team to represent Great Britain would be I. N. Rose, R. M. Sheehan, J. D. R. Collings, P. Hackett, Dr A. P. Sowter and S. J. Lodge, the last three being new to international honours at the European level. Bill Pencharz and Reymond Brock are unlucky to be excluded. The non-playing captain will be announced later.

Cambridge won the annual university match, played at the Young Chelsea Club, in London last weekend, by 17 points over 96 boards and thus stopped Oxford making it three in a row. That brought Cambridge to only one win behind on the overall results, which are: Oxford 17, Cambridge 16 with one tie.

The match was fairly evenly poised until the three-quarter stage, when Cambridge shot ahead, gaining 33 points in eight boards. They went on to win by a total of 210—193.

Cambridge: D. J. D. Cole (capt), I. A. Popplestone, D. J. Harris, G. A. Thomson, D. J. Nalsmith, D. W. Wells. Oxford: J. M. Mason (capt), M. Stuckings, C. N. Smith, A. L. H. Smith, T. McComas, P. Boydell.

University news

Oxford
Proctors and the Assessor for 1982-83 have been elected as follows:
Senior Proctor, Mr I. C. Butler, student of Christ Church, tutor in English Literature; Junior Proctor, Dr R. A. Cooper, fellow of Brasenose College, tutor and lecturer in French; Assessor, Mrs Hilda Brown, fellow of St Hilda's College, tutor in German and Dean of Graduates.

Elections:
ST HILDA'S COLLEGE: K. M. T. Atkinson, junior research fellowship. Miss E. G. Kearns, MA: Proxime accessit, Miss J. R. Lyman, BA, Western Michigan, MA, Catholic University of America: College junior research fellowship, Mrs G. M. Sainsbury, BA, DPhil; Proxime accessit, Miss M. Clayton, BA, MA Cork.

The Canon Hall Junior Greek Testament Prize has been awarded to A. L. Horsman, St Stephen's House.

Elections
MERTON COLLEGE, Senior scholarships: J. H. Keeler, BA, scholar of St John's College; Carolyn J. Moule, BA (York), Trinity College, Cambridge; and A. B. Walney, BA, Cochrane Scholar of St Edmund Hall. Junior research fellowships: S. R. Airlie, MA (Glasg), Balliol College, modern history; D. A. Hume, BSc, PhD, Australian Nat Univ, Canberra, biology; and D. G. McCartney, BA, former Armourers' and Braziers' scholar, Brockune scholar, St Edmund Hall, metallurgy.
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE: Weir junior research fellowship in biochemistry: Mrs K. J. Wood, BSc (Birm), Wolfson College.

Edinburgh
Professor T. B. Smith, QC, DCL, LLD, has been appointed emeritus professor of Scots law.

London
Appointment to chairs
Professor R. U. Cooke, MSc, PhD, professor of physical geography, Bedford College, geography, University College; Dr E. B. Davies, BA, DPhil, lecturer in mathematics, Oxford University, mathematics, King's College; Professor N. J. Graves, BSc, MA, PhD, formerly professor of education, Institute of Education, Robert Ogilvie Buchanan Chair of Geography Education, Institute of Education; Dr J. B. Pendry, BA, MA, PhD, SPSO and head of theory group, Daresbury Laboratory, Warrington, theoretical solid state physics, Imperial College.
Conferment of title of professor
Dr D. J. Evans, MB, BChir, MA, MRCPath, tissue pathology.
Conferment of title of reader
Margaret E. Bryant, education; Dr J. Gregory, water chemistry; Dr Shirley E. Hawkins, zoology; Dr J. W. B. Hughes, mathematics; Dr E. I. W. Jones, geology; Dr G. F. Joplin, clinical endocrinology; Dr J. Marshall, experimental pathology; Dr Margaret Maid, French; Dr J. Morley, immunopharmacology; Dr J. A. Ramsden, modern history; Dr C. D. Richards, physiology; Dr M. W. Turner, immunochemistry; Dr G. P. Vinson, steroid endocrinology.

Wales
SWANSEA
Social Science Research Council personal research award: G. N. Harding, lecturer in political theory and government.

Southampton
Hartley fellowships for 1981-82:
Dr G. J. M. Hirons, senior visitor, Edward Grey Institute of Field Ornithology, Oxford, biology
Dr A. Offer, lecturer in economic and social history, York University, history.

Exeter
Professor Michael Wood, MA PhD (Cantab), professor of English and comparative literature, Columbia University, New York, has been appointed to the chair of English from January, 1982.
Promotions
Senior Lecturers: Dr E. Steiner, chemistry; Dr D. G. Mayes, economics; M. J. Golby, education; Mrs E. M. Chandler, education; Dr R. J. P. Kain, geography; E. M. Durrance, geology; Dr M. D. Rush, politics.
Dr Lesley Sharpe, BA, DPhil, has been appointed lecturer in German.

Kent
The following honorary degrees are to be conferred at congregations on July 3 and 4:
Doctor of Civil Law (DCL): W. A. Henderson, consultant architect to the university; Norman Platt, founder of Kent Opera; Bernard A. Porter, Mayor of Canterbury.
D.Litt: Sir Richard Attenborough, the actor, producer and director.
DSc: Sir Frederick Dainton, FRS, chairman of the British Library Board.
LL.D: Lord Scarman.

Science report

Behaviour: Monkey motherhood

By the Staff of *Nature*

A group of scientists have shown that rhesus monkey mothers decide when to conceive their next infant according to how well their current infant is developing. The mothers test the progress of their infants by trying to reject them and seeing how they respond: the more independent the infant seems to be the sooner will the mother have another baby.

Dr M. Simpson and his colleagues reached that conclusion from a study of a colony of rhesus monkeys (*Macaca mulatta*) kept at the sub-Department of Animal Behaviour of the University of Cambridge. They noticed that some mothers (quick mothers) had given birth in two consecutive breeding seasons while others (slow mothers) had delayed the birth of a further infant until a later breeding season. To find out why some mothers had delayed breeding the scientists examined measurements they had made of the behaviour of the mothers and their infants.

As the infants of both quick and slow mothers become older their mothers tend to reject them more frequently. They hit or bite them more often, allow them to suck at the nipple and cuddle less often and push them away more quickly after the infant begins clinging to them. When the infant is rejected it may move away on its own or it may keep trying to gain attention and cry until the mother gives in and comforts it.

There was, however, an important difference in the frequency of rejection by quick and slow mothers: after the first few weeks the quick mothers, the ones who went on to have another baby soon, rejected their infants more often than slow mothers. That difference was strongly linked to a difference in the rates of the infants' development. During the same period the infants of quick mothers were developing more rapidly; they were more active, running around and playing more than infants of slow mothers.

Putting these observations together, Dr Simpson and his colleagues suggest that when a mother rejects her infant what she is really doing is seeing if it protests and thus testing how independent it is able to be. Mothers whose infants are active and developing rapidly can reject them more often and go on to have another baby soon. Mothers whose babies are not doing so well are not able to reject them so often and will wait longer before having another baby.

The survival value to the mother and infant of the mother being able to test her infant's progress and adjust the time when she next has a baby is easily seen. She need not waste time on looking after an infant who is capable of being more independent, but can go on to have more babies as soon as possible. From the infant's point of view, the mother's ability to test his progress will mean that he will not be rejected until he is better able to look after himself.

Source: *Nature*, March 5, 1981 (volume 290, page 49).

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Latest wills

Latest estates include (net, before tax paid):

Anderson, Mr George Robert, of Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, intestate £152,083
Bean, Mrs Helen Elizabeth Urquhart, of Norwich .. £154,799
Bechtler, Mr Maurice Arthur Edward, of Kensington, London £197,100
Cammell, Mr John Edward, of Oxford £550,696
Cobbold, Mr Samuel James, of Ipswich, Suffolk £139,709
Conroy, Mr Edmund Michael, of Sale, Cheshire £127,883
Cook, Mr Arthur Harry, of Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire £1,170,766
Corbet, Dr Robert Joseph Henry Mulhall, of Dalkey, co Dublin, estate in England, Wales and Irish Republic £193,841
Fitzpatrick, Dr Denis, of Brittas Bay, co Wicklow, estate in England, Wales and Irish Republic £136,786
Froud, Mr Andrew Eric, of Stratford-on-Avon £127,566
Goodbody, Mr Philip Perry, of Patrickswell, co Limerick, mill executive, estate in England, Wales and Irish Republic .. £150,107
Hudson, Mrs Edith, of Prestbury, Cheshire £113,856
Ingham, Mr Henry Arthur, of Garstang, Lancashire, company director £197,319
Kelly, Mr Edmund Joseph, of Tipperary, merchant, estate in England, Wales and Irish Republic £150,612
Labbet, Mr James Maxwell, of Michaelchurch-on-Arrow, Powys, farmer £96,231
McCabe, Mrs Ellen Marie, of Clones, co Monaghan, estate in England, Wales and Irish Republic £206,361

25 years ago

From The Times of Friday, March 16, 1956

Prince Starhemberg who died yesterday of a heart attack at the age of 56 while walking at Schruns in the Vorarlberg was the youngest and most adventurous of the political leaders and one of the most hotly contested personalities in the public life of Austria between the wars. He was one of the numerous body of young men both in Germany and Austria who, having had to take their places in the firing line at an immature age, were drawn partly by temperamental inclination partly through the unsettlement of their educational careers into those political and military adventures which could be had almost for the asking in the first turbulent years of peace

Malvern College

The following elections have been made:
MAJOR SCHOLARSHIPS: H. L. Dewing (Dragon School, Oxford), A. D. C. Ferguson (Hillstone, Malvern), O. Adebayo (Belmont, Mill Hill), R. C. O. Hart (Hillstone, Malvern), J. P. M. Bowtell (Packwood Haugh, Ruyton-Eleven-Towns), E. H. Bispham (Brockhurst, Newbury).
MINOR SCHOLARSHIPS: E. D. Webb (The Beacon, Chesham Bois), R. N. G. Carter (Aberdour, Tadworth), A. M. P. Roe (Lawrence House, St Anne's-on-Sea).
INTERNAL EXHIBITIONS: A. Ghai (Malvern College and La Chataigneraie, Switzerland), C. M. Sharp (Malvern College and Pownall Hall, Wilmslow), M. D. Hayter (Malvern College and The Wells House).
EXHIBITIONS: C. T. Gill (The Beacon, Chesham Bois), M. A. Gough (Birkdale, Sheffield), M. R. M. Thomas (Papplewick, Ascot), T. M. Sutton (Great Houghton, Northampton), J. C. Valle (The Downs, Wraxall), A. G. Lahood (The Downs, Colwall), P. E. Reynolds (Beaudesert Park, Minchinhampton).
ART SCHOLARSHIP: P. D. Scott (Emscote Lawn, Warwick).
ART EXHIBITION (HONORARY): R. G. Delingpole (Malvern College and Hillstone).

Latest appointments

Mr John Haslam, aged 49, a manager in the sport and outside broadcasts department, BBC Radio, has been appointed Assistant Press Secretary to the Queen. He will take up his duties on April 27.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev P. J. Allton, Vicar of St Mary, Hunstanton with Ringstead Parva, Holme-next-the-Sea, and Thornham, diocese of Norwich, to be also Rural Dean of Heacham and Rising, same diocese.

The Rev J. D. Andrews, Vicar of Penkhull, diocese of Lichfield to be also prebendary of Bishopshull in Cathedral Church of St Mary and St Chad, same diocese.

Canon Gervase Babington, Rector of Waddington and Rural Dean of Graffoe, diocese of Lincoln, to be Vicar of Gainsborough, All Saints same diocese.

The Rev J. J. Bailey, Rural Dean of Humbleyard, Vicar of Cringleford and Rector of Colney, diocese of Norwich, to be religious adviser to Anglia Television, Bishop of Norwich's chaplain for broadcasting and television, and priest-in-charge of Kirby Bedon and Bixley, diocese of Norwich.

The Rev D. J. Belcher, project co-ordinator St George's House, Wolverhampton, to be priest-in-charge, Christ Church, West Bromwich, diocese of Lichfield.

The Rev A. E. N. Bliss, to be priest-in-charge of Caldecote, Bedfordshire, diocese of St Albans, to be Vicar of same benefice and of the benefice of Old Warden, Bedfordshire, same diocese.

The Rev A. Bowden, Rector of Coates, Rodmarton and Sapperton with Frampton Mansell, diocese of Gloucester, also to be bishop's adviser for rural society, same diocese.

The Rev R. G. Bromby, Team Vicar, Southend Team Ministry, diocese of Chelmsford, to be priest-in-charge, Goldhanger with Little Totham, same diocese.

The Rev R. Cook, asst curate, Christ Church, Fulwood, diocese of Sheffield, to be asst curate, St Paul with Emmanuel, Bolton, diocese of Manchester.

The Rev Michael Cooke, non-stipendiary minister, Aberdeen and Orkney, to be chaplain of the Missions to Seamen and honorary priest to serve in parish of Immingham, diocese of Lincoln.

Canon R. Crookes, priest-in-charge of Binbrook Group, diocese of Lincoln, also to be priest-in-charge, Kelstern with Calcethorpe and East Wykeham.

The Rev W. A. V. Cummings, Rector of Long Stratton, Wacton Magna with Parva, diocese of Norwich, also to be Rural Dean of Depwade, same diocese.

The Rev D. Dale, Vicar, Holy Trinity, diocese of Hereford, to be chaplain, Shiplake College, Henley-on-Thames, diocese of Oxford.

The Rev J. Dare, Vicar, St Peter's, Ealing, diocese of London, to be Vicar of Wisborough Green, diocese of Chichester.

The Rev P. Davis, to be curate, Bishop Hannington Memorial Church with special responsibility for Holy Cross, diocese of Chichester.

The Rev R. Davison, Rector of Welbourn, diocese of Lincoln, to be Rector, West Winch, diocese of Norwich.

OBITUARY

PROFESSOR MAY McKISACK

Eminent historian of medieval England

Professor May McKisack, FRHistS, FSA, who died on March 14 at the age of 81, was Professor of History at Westfield College in the University of London, from 1955 to 1967 and for many years Fellow and Tutor of Somerville College, Oxford. She was eminent as a historian of fourteenth century England, as a University teacher, and as the guide and friend of many generations of young scholars.

May McKisack was born in Belfast on March 30, 1900, the elder child and only daughter of Audley McKisack, solicitor, by Elizabeth, daughter of John McCullough. Her younger brother was Sir Audley McKisack, until 1962 Chief Justice of Uganda. On her father's side she came of a family which had for several generations played a leading part among the Unitarians of Northern Ireland, and who were distinguished for their personal and commercial integrity, the liberalism of their views and their devotion to the public service. Though she was brought up in England and was herself a staunch member of the Church of England, the family and its traditions exercised a great influence over her.

The early death of her father left his widow in straitened circumstances and she moved to Bedford, to take advantage of the excellent education which the High Schools there provided. May McKisack accordingly was educated at the Bedford High School for Girls, from which she passed with a Scholarship to Somerville College, Oxford, in 1919.

A natural bent for historical and literary studies was fostered first at school by Miss Agnes Sandys (later Mrs Kenneth Leys and Fellow and Vice-Principal of St Hilda's College, Oxford) and then at Somerville by the distinguished medievalist, Miss M. V. Clarke, one of whose favourite pupils she became, and with whom she formed a lasting friendship.

Apart from a year's teaching at Clifton High School (1924-25), her professional life was spent in University teaching and research; as Research Fellow at Somerville College (1925-27); as Lecturer in Mediaeval History at Liverpool University (1927-35); from 1936-55 as the successor to her former tutor Miss M. V. Clarke as Fellow and Tutor at Somerville College, and from 1955-67 as Professor of History at Westfield College.

Her first book—*Parliamentary Representation of the English Boroughs*—appeared in 1932, and marked her out as a medievalist of promise. Though the heavy burdens of College teaching and University lecturing, and the special limitations imposed by the war years, checked the publication of her researches, the growth of her learning and scholarship was indicated by her contributions to learned periodicals and her essay on "London and the Succession to the Crown" in *Studies Presented to Sir Maurice Powicke*, 1948. And in 1959 she published her volume on *The Fourteenth Century* (Oxford History of England, Vol. V) which embodied the results of many years of reading, research and reflection.

In addition to her fourteenth century studies she was much attracted by the work of the great line of Tudor antiquaries and concentrated on the study of their attitude towards the Middle Ages. This led, in 1971, to *Medieval History in the Tudor Age*, a description of Tudor historians, collectors of manuscripts, topographers and other writers of the period.

Her historical work was marked by wide-ranging though in the main conservative scholarship, by a preference for the study of men in action over that of the institutions within which this action took place (though she did not decry the importance of institutions), by a belief in the value of narrative in the writing of history, by strong good sense, an imaginative feeling for period, and by a clear, pleasant and flexible prose style which reflected the qualities of her mind.

It was not only by her learned publications that she made her contribution to academic life. She was an admirable lecturer, and an acute examiner, and her good sense and balanced judgment made her a valued member of College and Faculty, and of numerous learned societies (including the Society of Antiquaries of which she was a Fellow). As a colleague her unaffected kindliness and perfect integrity won her many friends.

To many, however, she will be best remembered not only or chiefly for her academic achievements but is a college tutor and supervisor of research students. She had a genuine liking for the young, entirely free from sentimentality or censoriousness, and expressed without compromise with her own principles or views. She expected of them (and usually obtained) hard work and a zest for knowledge, and many had their interest in medieval studies first aroused by her modest but inspired advocacy of the pursuits in which she spent her life; but her interest in her pupils went far beyond their work and long outlasted their undergraduate days.

Her advice, though she pretended to no unusual knowledge of the world, was widely sought and much prized, and many will remember with affection and gratitude the small house in North Oxford where she and her mother (an old lady of remarkable character and charm) were always ready to welcome friends both new and old.

Professor McKisack was a Visiting Professor at Vassar College, United States, in 1967-68. She had been elected a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society in 1928 and was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1952.

She was made Emeritus Professor of History at London University on her retirement in 1967.

MAJOR-GENERAL LEWIS PUGH

Major-General Lewis Pugh, CB, CBE, DSO, died on March 10. He was 73.

Born on May 18, 1907, he was educated at Wellington College and RMA, Woolwich, from where he was commissioned in the Royal Artillery in 1927.

After serving in the Army of Occupation of the Rhine he was posted to the 1st Indian Divisional Ammunition Column at Campbellpur and subsequently served for a year as a Liaison Officer with 20 Squadron RAF until 1934 when he was appointed GSO3 (Intelligence) HQ Northern Command, India. From 1934 to 1936 he served with Mercer's Troop, RHA at Sialkot after which he was seconded for four years to the Indian Police in Bengal as a District Superintendent of Special Branch.

During this period he was mostly engaged in anti-terrorist duties and had the rare distinction for a serving Army Officer of being awarded the Indian Police Medal. This flair for the unconventional was to be highlighted many times during the remainder of his distinguished military career.

On leaving the Indian Police he served with 13 (Dardoni) Mountain Battery at Razmak prior to attending the Staff College at Quetta. Successful qualification brought Pugh several staff appointments. There then followed a period of six months on special operations before he was appointed second-in-command of 30 Mountain Regiment in the 26th Indian Division. It was during his period on special operations that his flair for the unconventional was again given the chance to flourish. The daring and imaginative raid on the Axis vessels in Goa was led by Pugh as it had largely been planned by him. The story was a well kept secret for 30 years until the publication of the book *Boarding Party*. The destruction of four Axis vessels was achieved without a scratch on the raiding party and the previous abduction of an enemy agent from Goa was also achieved successfully without loss of life.

In 1943 he was given command of 25 Mountain Regiment in the 7th Indian Division and took part in operations in the Arakan, Kohima, the Naga Hills (including the Battle of the Box and the Battle of Kohima). Subsequently he took part in the crossing of the Irrawaddy and the advance to Meiktila. For his services in these operations he was mentioned in despatches and awarded the DSO in 1945.

In May 1945 he was appointed Commander of 33 Indian Infantry Brigade which was the spearhead of 33 Indian Corps down the Irrawaddy river. With additional troops under command the brigade captured within three weeks, in concert with other operations, the towns of Kyaukpadang and Gmegyo, the Chauk oilfields and the main Burma oilfield of Yenanjaung. In these operations the brigade suffered relatively few casualties although Japanese casualties in men and materials were heavy. For his part in these operations he was awarded a bar to his DSO.

When the Japanese war ended Pugh was second-in-command of 49 Indian Infantry Brigade and took part in the unopposed landing in Malaya. The brigade moved to Java and he assumed command during the subsequent fighting, being awarded a second bar to his DSO within a one year period during 1946.

After periods of Regimental command and staff he commanded 26 Gurkha Infantry Brigade in Malaya from 1949 to 1952. He was mentioned in despatches and made CBE before returning to England where he served as BGS, CIGS Exercise Planning Staff and DDMO at the War Office. After attending Imperial Defence College in 1955 he served as Chief of Staff, GHQ FARELF from 1956 to 1957 during which period he was made CB.

It was in 1956 that he was appointed Colonel of the 2nd KEO Goorkhas in succession to Lieutenant General Sir Francis Tuker. He held this appointment for 13 years and for 11 years he was representative Colonel of the Brigade of Gurkhas. These were difficult and trying years covering the latter years of the Malayan Emergency, Brunei rebellion and the Indonesian Confrontation campaign. He saw his Regiment and the Brigade of Gurkhas attain great things. He also saw the beginning of the subsequent drastic reduction in strength with all of the heartbreaking redundancies. He was not always popular with the powers to be during this period fighting hard for the survival of the Gurkhas and for fair treatment of those who had to leave the service prematurely.

Pugh returned to his last appointment in 1958 as General Officer Commanding Mid West District and 53 Welsh Division (TA). During this period he threw himself into Welsh affairs at all levels being a strong advocate and supporter of the Territorial Army in Wales. He was their first Commander for some time to speak Welsh. He retired from the Army in February 1961 after 34 years of remarkable service in all theatres of the world.

In retirement, as during his service, he never let up. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace and Deputy Lieutenant of Cardiganshire. In 1961 he was appointed honorary Colonel of The Royal Welsh Fusiliers (TA) and later became Vice Lieutenant of the county.

MR CLARENCE WINCHESTER

Mr Clarence Winchester, the editor and author who died on March 15 at the age of 85, had been in journalism for a great number of years, particularly on the periodical side of the profession, and was also well known in the aeronautical world. He had been an assistant editor on the *Daily Sketch*, but before that had edited a number of periodicals for Cassells, and the Amalgamated Press.

In his earlier days Winchester had been associated with the stage. In 1913-14 he learnt to fly, and at one time wrote on aeronautics for the *Daily Mail*. He was editor of *Ideas* under Sir Edward Hulton and later under Allied Newspapers, and then became assistant chief editor to Cassells, where, under his particular charge were the *Argosy*; *Cassell's Magazine*; the *Storyteller*; the *New* and the *Corner* Magazines.

Winchester had also edited the *Red Magazine*; *Railway Wonders of the World*; *Shipping Wonders of the World*; *Wonders of World Engineering*; *The Story of the British Empire*; *Wonders of World Aviation*; *World Film Encyclopaedia*; *England* (a quarterly); *The British Legion Poppy Annual*; and *The King's Navy*; *The King's Army*; and *The King's Air Force*, in co-operation with the Admiralty, the War Office and the Air Ministry respectively.

He was advisory editorial director to the publishing firm of Crosby Lockwood and Son Limited, and was correspondent on European affairs to *The Argonaut*, of San Francisco. He was a founder member of the original Institute of Aeronautical Engineers, a fellow of the Royal Society of St George, an associate of the Royal Aeronautical Society, and an associate member of the American Museum of Natural History.

His own publications included *Aerial Photography* (in conjunction with F. L. Wills); *Sonnets and Some Others*; *The Devil Rides High*; *An Innocent in Hollywood*; "*Let's Look at London*"; *Earthquake in Los Angeles*; *Three Men in a Plane*; *The Captain Lost his Bathroom*; *Airman To-morrow* (in conjunction with Alfred Kerr); and *A Great Rushing of Wings and other Poems*.

He was also editor and designer of *The Royal Philatelic Collection* by Sir John Wilson, Bt, and of *The Crown Jewels* by Major-General H. D. W. Sitwell.

Winchester married, in 1914, Constance Katherine Groves.

SIGNOR PAOLO GRASSI

Signor Paolo Grassi, a former director of La Scala opera house, Milan, died in London on March 14 at the age of 61. He was a former president of the Italian State Radio and Television Company RAI.

Born in Milan in 1919 of an Italian father and a Bavarian mother, he began his career at the age of 18 as a theatre critic for a Milan newspaper. He started managing a theatre company at the age of 20 and founded Milan's "little theatre" with Signor Giorgio Strehler as director in 1947.

As director of La Scala from 1972 to 1977 he will be remembered for the exchange tours he organized with Covent Garden opera house.

HIS HON JUDGE BARRY CARTER

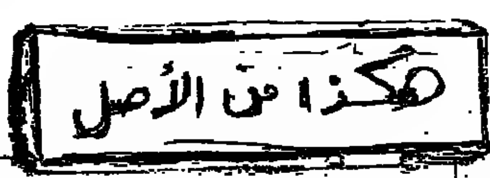
Lord Rawlinson writes:

When last June the Western Circuit rejoiced at the appointment to the Circuit Bench of Barry Carter, no-one thought that we should so soon be mourning his loss. And a grievous loss it is.

Called in 1953, he joined Humfrey Edmunds's chambers and was from the outset a dedicated circuiteer who soon built up a substantial circuit practice. He had an astonishingly wide circle of friends, and he was one of those rare people who was liked by everyone and of whom no-one ever heard an ill word spoken. He was a delightful companion whose unfailing cheerfulness in every situation brought joy to those who were with him. For four years before his appointment to the Bench he was a popular and energetic wine treasurer (chairman of the executive committee of the circuit). He was a Deputy Chairman of Hampshire Quarter Sessions and a Recorder of the Crown Court. In 1978 he became a Bencher of Gray's Inn.

Barry's talents were not limited to his profession. He was a first class tennis player, who gained his Blue at Cambridge in 1949, captained the university team the following year, and often played for the Bar Lawn Tennis Association. He was for many years a member of the All-England Club, and since 1978 was a popular and influential member of the committee.

Barry was a man of singular integrity, whose modesty, humanity and natural sense of fairness would undoubtedly have brought distinction to his work as a Judge. He will be sadly missed by all his many friends, who extend their deepest sympathy to his wife Hermione and their children.



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THE TIMES
BUSINESS NEWS



■ Stock markets
FT Ind 479.8 up 2.6
FT Gilts 69.92 down 0.27

■ Sterling
$2.2380 up 1.95 cents
Index 99.5 up 0.4

■ Dollar
Index 99.3 down 0.5
DM 2.0915 down 180 pts

■ Gold
$498.50 up $5

■ Money
3 mth sterling 12⅝-12⅞
3 mth Euro-$ 14⅛-14¼
6 mth Euro-$ 14⅝-14⅞

IN BRIEF

Dow Jones breaks 1,000 point mark

The Dow Jones industrial share price index broke through the 1,000 point level last night on strong buying on the New York Stock Exchange. The index rose by 17.02 points to 1020.72 as interest rates fell.

The rally, which came late in the day, was partly due to continued speculation on further takeover bids, after three big bids last week. Two of the bid targets last week, Kennecott Copper, which is being bought by Standard Oil of Ohio, and St Joe Minerals, which is being bought by Seagrams, lost in value with considerable profit-taking.

Trading volume was heavy as almost 50 million shares changed hands.

Earlier the Chase Manhattan Bank and the First National Bank of Chicago both cut their prime lending rates to 17½ per cent from 18 per cent. Most United States banks are likely to make similar cuts.

The Federal Reserve Board continued to indicate a willingness to see a general decline in Bank lending rates by making no effort to raise the rate for federal funds, now trading slightly above 14 per cent.

BL's Metro captures best-seller spot

BL's Mini Metro has forged ahead of Ford's Cortina model to become Britain's best-selling car, according to unconfirmed industry figures.

The new car helped to boost BL's market share in the first 10 days of March to 25 per cent, more than one per cent ahead of Ford whose sales have been hit by a delivery drivers strike. BL hopes to sell about 100,000 units a year overseas—about the same as expected in the home market.

Strike hits searches

Searches at Companies House have been hit by the civil servants' dispute. More than 11,000 daily requests for information in London and 1,000 in Cardiff have been suspended indefinitely although applications may be lodged for processing after the end of the strike, which involves 160 staff at the two centres.

Prestcold takeover

Suter Electrical, a Lancashire hair salon equipment manufacturer, is buying Prestcold, the refrigeration and air-conditioning subsidiary of BL, for £9m. Suter is raising cash through a £7.7m rights issue.

Financial Editor, page 17

Anglo-Israeli trade

Thirty years of increasing British trade with Israel, totalling about £500m a year, was celebrated at a British-Israel Chamber of Commerce dinner where the principal speaker was Sir Keith Joseph, the Industry Secretary.

Thorn EMI factory

Thorn EMI is setting up a £2m electrical equipment factory on a 4.5-acre site at the Blenheim industrial estate in Nottinghamshire.

SDR exchange rate

The dollar's exchange rate against the SDR was 1.23125, while the £=SDR rate was 0.551388.

Industrial output drops 1.3pc to lowest level for nine years

By David Blake
Economics Editor

Government hopes that the drop in output is coming to an end received a blow yesterday with the announcement of new figures showing that industrial output fell by 1.3 per cent in January, the seventh successive monthly fall.

The drop took total industrial output down to its lowest level for nine years. In the three months to the end of January, output was 11.5 per cent lower than in the same period a year ago.

In manufacturing industry alone, the drop has been even greater—output is down 15.5 per cent on a year ago.

The gloomy output figures were made worse by a sharp downturn in the level of retail sales in February, where the provisional index fell 1.8 per cent from the high figure recorded in January. Experts at the Department of Trade think the picture would have been even worse without the continuation of winter sales into February.

High turnover during this year's January sales provided a much-needed boost to companies which have been trying desperately to reduce their stocks. But the signs that the underlying level will be fairly depressed this year are bound to weaken business confidence, already shaken by the Budget.

This could lead to industrial output staying depressed until well into the year. The latest figures show no sign of the turn-around which government ministers had hoped would arrive by the first quarter of the year.

Output is down right across the industrial landscape of the nation.

In the three months to the end of January, textile and clothing output fell 5 per cent to stand 21 per cent below its level of the previous year. Engineering dropped 5.7 per cent to 17 per cent below last year's level, and falls of over 2 per cent were also recorded by the miscellaneous other manufacturing category.

The figures show the way in which the recession is changing its shape as it moves towards the end of its second year. Investment goods industries are now showing the sharpest drops, as companies cut back desperately on capital spending to stay in business.

Consumer goods industries are showing a smaller fall—2.4 per cent in the latest three months compared to 5.3 per cent for investment goods.

Intermediate goods industries are doing slightly better, however, as the pace of destocking, which led the way down in the early part of 1980, starts to ease.

The recession has been far more severe in the manufacturing sector than the Government predicted at the time of the 1980 Budget. Ministers now hope that output in the economy as a whole will start to pick up in the summer.

Promotions boost sales. Special promotions and a rash of pre-Budget sales into March have kept non-food volumes higher than some retailers expected, although volume sales of kitchen appliances and other electrical goods are still generally down around 5 per cent compared with a year ago (Derek Harris writes).

Chains such as Currys and Rumbelows report some improvement in sales of washing machines, with growth in specialist sectors like video cassette recorders and microwave ovens.

Food sales are steady and non-foods "distinctly improved" over the past six weeks, according to Mr Ian MacLaurin, managing director of Tesco.

The John Lewis Partnership department stores are trading steadily, with the first week in March up 12.5 per cent by value on an annual comparison, well ahead of the half year forecast of 7.3 per cent. Food, showing a 14.6 per cent rise, is also ahead of forecast.

Legal battle likely over Savoy bid

By Philip Robinson

A legal battle now seems certain between Sir Hugh Wontner, Savoy chairman, and Sir Charles Forte, whose Trusthouse Forte empire is making a £58m takeover bid for the hotel group based in the Strand.

Tomorrow Sir Hugh will tell Sir Charles in a letter that he is refusing to call the two special shareholders' meetings which the head of the world's largest hotel and catering chain reckons would give him control of the Savoy group.

Sir Hugh and his board have already dismissed the Trusthouse offer as wholly unwelcome and totally unacceptable.

Six days ago when Trusthouse Forte, whose chairman is Lord Thorneycroft, announced its offer, Sir Charles asked Sir Hugh for a decision on the meetings within seven days. He also said that if the Savoy board was not prepared to call them, his group, as holders of 88,000 "A" shares, would.

The meetings, for the "A" and "B" shareholders separately, are important because of the complex voting structure (the "A" shares have one and the "B" shares carry 10 votes each). The "A" shareholders have a total of 51 per cent of the total votes available.

Sir Charles, with his advisers, merchant bankers S. G. Warburg and solicitors Linklaters & Paines, think that if the "A" shareholders vote for the bid with a 75 per cent majority, it would give them control of 51 per cent.

Sir Charles has said: "We can manage the company with that."

But the Savoy camp say the move, thought up as a scheme of arrangement, would effectively be disenfranchising the "B" shareholders, most of which are the board, and control 48 per cent of the total votes.

Trusthouse Forte reckons that it can exercise power under Section 206 of the Companies Act which entitles any member to call a meeting of shareholders, and Linklaters says it is taking that section as embracing all shareholders.

Trusthouse appears to be in a stronger position with the "A" shareholders which are much more widely spread. The Kuwait Investment Office has already indicated it intends to accept, with its 34.1 per cent of "A" shares.

If Warburg Investment Management accepts with its 15.4 per cent, Trusthouse is more than half way towards the majority it says it needs.

The Savoy board has taken counsel's advice and says it is more or less in permanent session with its advisers.

Meanwhile after Trusthouse Forte's annual meeting in London yesterday, Sir Charles said: "If all they can do is throw insults at me, it will make no difference to the bid. This is the first bid I have made without consulting the board." He said that about five months ago he had two lunches with Sir Hugh which were "very pleasant" and at which he wanted to discuss the possibility of a takeover bid.

"Then I had a letter from a mutual friend. It was a copy of a letter sent to him by Sir Hugh in which he said he would like me to stop pressuring him."

Three months later Sir Charles launched his bid. He is offering 84 of Forte shares or £165 in cash for every 100 Savoy "A" shares and five Forte shares or £9.75 for each "B" share.

Sir Charles Forte and Lord Thorneycroft at yesterday's meeting.

EEC states seeking joint interest rate policy

From Peter Norman
Brussels, March 16

EEC member states are trying to draw up a joint policy on interest rates to present to this summer's world economic summit in Ottawa, Mr Alfons van der Stee, the Dutch finance ministers, said.

Mr van der Stee who presided over a meeting of economics and finance ministers in Brussels today said that every member state in the European community was convinced that present interest levels were too high. The immediate problem was the level of interest rates in the United States.

His remarks followed a debate in which the finance ministers went into resricted session to discuss monetary issues. They heard reports from Mr Gordon Richardson, the Governor of the Bank of England and chairman of the EEC Central Bank Governors Committee and M Jean Yves Haberer, the chairman of the EEC Monetary Committee.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, who left the meeting early to close the Budget debate in London was represented by Sir Kenneth Couzens, the permanent secretary at the Treasury responsible for overseas affairs.

Although Mr van der Stee was reluctant to discuss the debate in detail, he did let slip that one of the problems confronting the EEC is that United States policy today is in line with advice given in the past to Washington by European goverments.

"They are fighting inflation and we have to be cautious", he said. "We have to show respect and appreciation for what the United States is now doing."

But at the same time, he made clear that the Community would not stay passive in the face of the United States interest rate challenge. Today's meeting of finance ministers ordered M Haberer, Mr Richardson and the European Commission to consider the issue further and report back at a later date.

The interest rate squeeze, triggered by the high level of rates in the United States, has been causing particular problems in West Germany. Members of the German Social Democrat Party, the dominant partner in the coalition government, are angry at the way in which the federal bank has pushed up interest rates in line with trends in the United States.

Also, Herr Hans Matthöfer, the finance minister, has been advocating a concerted international reduction of rates but so far has failed to secure any great degree of support.

The EEC Commission has also been looking at developments with anxiety.

MFI's joint managing director resigns

By Margareta Pagano

Mr Jack Seabright, joint managing director of MFI Furniture, has offered his resignation, to take effect in July, after it was made clear to him in discussions that he would not be the next chairman.

Mr Seabright said: "After successive discussions it was made clear to me that when Mr Arthur Southon retires as chairman in a few years time I would not be considered as his successor." In these circumstances he felt he could not stay under another chairman.

"I am 51 and instead of waiting decided to make the break now." Mr Seabright has been with the furniture group for seven years and will now be considering either "a change of career", or perhaps "taking advantage of the Chancellor's recent incentives for small business." All talks have been amicable and compensation had been agreed.

Mr Southon said the board had accepted the resignation with regret and wished to express its gratitude to Mr Seabright for his contribution to the development of the group.

Mr Southon, who is 65, said he had no plans to retire until he was about 70 provided he retained the board's confidence.

During the recent talks about a successor, Mr Southon said that he could not honestly give Mr Seabright a clear indication as to what might occur.

Mr Noel Lister, a co-founder of the group and joint managing director, will become chief executive on Mr Seabright's departure. He will have special responsibility for development, buying and marketing.

Mr Derek Hunt, aged 41, is appointed sole group managing director. He has been a board director since 1975.

Mr Southon said his role in the next five years or so would be to ensure "an acceptable and competent successor does emerge". Whether this would be Mr Lister or someone else remained to be seen.

MFI recently reported interim pretax profits at £4.9m, £3.1m down on the previous year. Despite a sales increase from £56.1m to £90m, the group looks hard pressed to recover in the second half. Borrowings,

£314m trade surplus set last month

By Frances Williams

Britain had a trade surplus in February of £314m, less than half the freakishly high surplus of £742m in January and rather lower than in the last few months of 1980.

A sharp rise in imports and a substantial fall in exports may point to an early worsening of the United Kingdom's trade balance this year.

A large projected surplus of £300m on invisibles, due mainly to EEC budget refunds payable in the first quarter of this year, boosted the February current account surplus to £614m, down from a revised £1,042m in January.

Imports rose 8 per cent in February, recovering to around the levels of late last year. Excluding erratic items, such as precious stones, ships and aircraft, the volume of imports jumped 13 per cent in the month, led by increased imports of basic materials and finished products, notably cars.

Exports were down over 4 per cent in February from January's high level, despite record oil exports of £686m. This was chiefly because of lower deliveries of finished manufactured goods and erratic items.

The Department of Trade said yesterday that the underlying trend in export volumes had been broadly flat since the middle of last year, but the most recent figures suggest a possible decline.

Over the three months to February the volume of non-oil exports excluding erratics fell by 2¼ per cent from the previous 3 months.

In the forecast for the economy published with the Budget last week, the Treasury estimated that this year's balance of payments surplus would be £1,500m, down £500m on last year, and deteriorating fairly steadily over the remainder of 1981.

Imports are expected to decline by 2¼ per cent in 1981 over 1980, picking up over the year as the rate of destocking by British industry declines.

Exports are predicted to fall by 5¼ per cent as the full effects of worsening competiveness over the past couple of years come home to roost, despite increasing exports of North Sea oil.

The record surplus on the oil account of £231m, plus the £300m positive balance on invisibles such as banking and tourism, account for the bulk of February's current account surplus.

The non-oil trade balance was just £83m in the black, down from £532m in January and less than a quarter of the average for the last three months of 1980.

Publication of the trade figures had little immediate impact on the foreign exchange markets. The pound rose 1.95 cents from Friday against a generally weaker dollar to close at $2.2380, its highest level for three weeks.

It was also stronger against continental currencies, its trade-weighted index against a basket of leading currencies up 0.4 on Friday's close at 99.5.

Lower domestic and Euro-dollar interest rates, and expectations of lower rates to come this week, were the chief cause of the dollar's decline. It closed at DM2.0915, down 1.8 pfennings from Friday and its lowest level for more than 6 weeks.

Tables, page 18

State industry chiefs join Budget attack

By Peter Hill
and Patricia Tisdall

Nationalized industry chairmen have joined the Confederation of British Industry in criticizing the Government's economic policies and calling for an investment-led recovery of the British economy.

In a thinly-veiled attack on the Government's economic strategy, Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the National Coal Board, said last night that it was "highly regrettable" that British manufacturers should be forced to cut back on their investment.

Speaking to the Oil Club in Glasgow, Sir Derek said that despite the 2 per cent cut in Minimum Lending Rate announced in the Budget last week, "further positive encouragement" would be needed if the projected 15-20 per cent fall in manufacturing industry investment this year was to be avoided.

Sir Derek, and other members of the Nationalized Industries Chairmen's Group, of which he is the present chairman, have for months been pressing the Government to modify the strict discipline of external financing limits on state groups. British Telecom and British Rail, both of whom have ambitious investment programmes, are among the hardest-hit corporations.

But another state industry chairman, Sir Denis Rooke of British Gas, yesterday underlined the important role which his corporation was playing in the Government's strategy. In the last financial year it had made a net repayment to the Exchequer of £447m—just £2m short of the target which it had been set. In the financial year now ending it would not be "too far away" from making a further repayment of £400m.

Business reaction: A shift is emerging in businessmen's considered reaction to the Budget which may dilute the otherwise adverse response expected from tomorrow's meeting of the council of the Confederation of British Industry.

While large manufacturing organizations support the CBI leaders' initial expression of disillusionment, a few smaller concerns are supporting the hard line taken by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

In a clear reference to a remark made by Sir Raymond Pennock, the CBI's president last week, Mr Walter Goldsmith, director of the Institute of Directors, said yesterday that rather than attack the Chancellor for "kicking industry in the teeth", businessmen should unite to lobby the Government to introduce a radical privatization programme and make real cuts in public sector revenue and manning expenditure".

The Chancellor still has substantial support from British businessmen, Mr Goldsmith said, calling on Tory MPs to back the Government in the Budget debate. Mr Goldsmith's institute represents 30,000 company directors.

Mr Anthony Frodsham, director general of Engineering Employers' Federation, in his criticism of the Budget concentrated on high public spending levels rather than on the absence of aid for industry. Mr Frodsham's comments were contained in a letter to Sir Geoffrey Howe.

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

Akroyd & Son	13p to 186p	Minorco	23p to 658p
Broken Hill	20p to 755p	Nthgate Explor	15p to 405p
CRA	10p to 253p	Peko Wallsend	20p to 445p
Grindlays Holds	17p to 183p	Saatchi	13p to 343p
Guthrie Corp	13p to 763p	Standard Tel	12p to 509p

Falls

Allen H. & Ross	15p to 363p	Inter Thomson	8p to 274p
BP	20p to 38op	Shell Tran	14p to 392p
Barclays Bank	14p to 381p	Schroders	10p to 348p
GKN	8p to 128p	Woolworth	5p to 53p
Hanimex Corp	8p to 63p	Yarrow	15p to 238p

THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia $	1.96	1.88
Austria Sch	34.90	32.70
Belgium Fr	81.75	77.75
Canada $	2.71	2.62
Denmark Kr	15.30	14.50
Finland Mkk	9.48	8.98
France Fr	11.40	10.90
Germany DM	4.85	4.61
Greece Dr	115.50	109.50
Hongkong $	12.10	11.50
Ireland Pt	1.32	1.26
Italy Lir	2380.00	2270.00
Japan Yn	488.00	463.00
Netherlands Gld	5.36	5.10
Norway Kr	12.45	11.80
Portugal Esc	127.00	121.00
South Africa Rd	1.99	1.85
Spain Pta	194.00	185.00
Sweden Kr	10.67	10.12
Switzerland Fr	4.43	4.20
USA $	2.27	2.20
Yugoslavia Dnr	79.00	73.50

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Lone cheer for the Chancellor

Amid the chorus of criticism of last week's "deflationary" Budget, one voice sounded out alone yesterday with words of cheer for the Chancellor. Professor Patrick Minford of the University of Liverpool, forecast that Sir Geoffrey Howe's measures have put economic policy back on course for rapid growth and falling unemployment from 1982.

Professor Minford's forecasting methods are controversial among economists and he has had some problems with past predictions, including one which suggested that output would show no fall in 1980. In fact, it was down by about 2½ per cent.

But the existence of some formal academic support for the view that present policy will get the economy right is bound to encourage government ministers who have been battered by criticism in the past week.

The Liverpool model of the economy is relatively new and it relies heavily on a theory known as "rational expectations". This suggests that individuals will react quickly to government policies. In Professor Minford's theory they are expected to respond strongly to the present policies aimed at bringing down inflation, cutting costs and wages.

The latest forecast is based on the assumption that the Government will stick to its plan without any hint of a U-turn between now and the next general election.

If that happens, the Liverpool group believes that inflation will fall very sharply. By 1984 it is expected to be down to 3.5 per cent a year, after having been 9.5 per cent in 1981, 5.4 per cent in 1982 and 4.2 per cent in 1983.

The economy should touch bottom round about the second quarter of this year and then start expanding. Output is expected to grow by 2.9 per cent in 1982, 2.8 per cent in 1983 and 2.7 per cent in 1984.

Unemployment, which most forecasters expect to go on rising unless the Government eases its policy, ought to come down below two million by 1984 in the view of the Liverpool group.

However, the forecast does now expect unemployment to average 2.6 million in 1982 compared to the 1.9 million which was predicted by the same model in November of last year.

Professor Minford's forecast differs markedly from those of most other economists, who foresee at best only a slow recovery in output

David Blake



Italy denies new credit to Soviet Union

The Soviet Union has failed to obtain a new credit line from Italy after five days of discussions in Rome between deputy ministers of the Italo-Soviet economic commission.

Italy has now accumulated a deficit on trade with the Soviet Union of more than $3,000m (£1,340m) and Signor Edoardo Speranza, the Italian undersecretary for foreign trade and representative at the talks, urged the Russians to increase their purchases in cash.

The Italian Government would, however, be prepared to support the grant of supplier credits to Italian exporters and to extend credit facilities to the Russians for specific projects.

Australian reserves

The Australian Reserve Bank said its gold and foreign exchange holdings rose A$223.35m to A$4,980m (£2,648.9m) in the week ended March 11 from A$4,750m the previous week.

Soviet oil find

Soviet engineers denied a Swedish report of a western Siberia oil field with overall reserves of 300,000m tons, but said output would be in the 154m-ton range for at least five years.

East-West trade

The East European nations' trade deficit with Western industrial countries shrank by about 70 per cent between 1978 and 1980, according to the Economic Commission for Europe.

Imports curb threat

France could temporarily block imports of Japanese products, M Francois Missoffe, the official responsible for solving Franco-Japanese trade problems, told a trade journal, adding that when Japanese exports presented an obvious danger to a European industry, the EEC Commission had to invoke its safeguard clause.

General chemicals sector told to 'slim to the bare minimum'

1,000 jobs at risk in ICI division

More than 15,000 workers at ICI's Mond division, which makes general chemicals at a number of sites in the North-east and North-west of England have been told that the "limping" business must "slim to the bare minimum".

This is likely to result in the disappearance of more than 1,000 jobs this year in the division which has already seen a cut-back in its investment plans.

Mr Dick Lindsell, chairman of the division, which traditionally accounts for about one-fifth of ICI's United Kingdom turnover, told staff, "I recognize that all this gloomy background will be causing all of us the deepest concern for our personal prospects, both immediately and in the longer term. But the old days are gone and so many of the old ways have to go, too."

ICI announced last month it was cutting its dividend for the first time since 1938, after trading for a loss in the second half of last year. A week later, it announced the merging of its loss-making plastics and petrochemicals divisions. This is expected to result in the loss of more than 1,000 jobs and the closure of one divisional headquarters.

By comparison with these and other big loss-makers like the fibres division, Mond had a fair year in 1980. It is understood the division made a reasonable profit but one which was well down on budget expectations.

Last year, the division shed about 7 per cent of its workforce, or more than 1,000 jobs. Similar, or even larger cuts are likely to be needed this year, as Mr Lindsell seeks productivity improvements

Numbers in the technical department, especially in engineering, are being reduced from 800 to about 500. Mond is also to be linked, for monitoring purposes, with the merged petrochemicals and plastics division through a heavy chemicals executive. This may allow some integration of administrative functions, such as accountancy, management services, and perhaps even distribution and marketing.

Last week's meeting of the divisional staff conference, at which Mr Lindsell gave details of the "unpalatable" measures needed, was picketed by trade unionists.

Mond has recently completed several large investment projects, and believes that it has a secure future if, through restructuring, the present difficulties can be overcome. Economies are also being looked for in energy and capital use.

Mond has its headquarters at Runcorn, Cheshire. Other business locations include Widnes, Winsford and Northwich, Cheshire, Fleetwood, Lancashire and Billingham and Wilton, on Teesside. Its difficulties in recent months have been largely those of the group as a whole: reduced demand, rising energy costs, and the relative strength of sterling.

Mond's salt and lime businesses have held up well. Soda ash has had a difficult year, and demand for chlorine has been hit by the fall in sales of chlorine-based products such as VCM, which goes into PVC.

Overall, ICI expects it could lose between 4,000 and 5,000 jobs in Britain this year against its average United Kingdom employment of 84,300 in 1980.

John Huxley

Progress on EEC insurance

From Peter Norman
Brussels, March 16

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, today achieved his objective of giving a political push to plans to extend the European Community to cover damage insurance business.

A draft directive to give insurance companies the right to do non-life business in EEC member states other than their own was put before finance ministers in Brussels and made good progress.

A "non-life services directive" was discussed for more than an hour. According to Mr Alfons van der Stee, the Dutch finance minister, the meeting produced some progress in reconciling the standpoints of Britain and Holland, which favour a liberal insurance regime, with the position of the other member states, whose stance has been largely responsible for the singular lack of advance towards a common insurance market in the EEC since the directive was first drafted in 1975.

The ministers today instructed the ambassadors of the 10 member states to the EEC to report back on the best ways to solve the outstanding problems.

The key issue, that of whether the supervisory authorities in a country where a risk is insured should be able to veto business, was discussed at some length.

Georgia Tech helps to found research centre in Limerick

A contract research centre is to be set up in the Irish Republic as a result of collaboration between the Irish Industrial Development Authority and Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) in the United States.

The centre will be known as the European Research Institute of Ireland and will be based on the campus of the National Institute of Higher Education at Limerick.

The development authority will provide £1m in grants under its service industries programme, and the balance of investment required will come from a consortium of industrial and comercial companies. The non-profit centre will be managed under contract by Georgia Tech.

Scientists and engineers at the institute will be taught the entreprenurial and marketing arts at Georgia Tech's "engineering experiment station" in Atlanta. Dr Daniel O'Neill, a senior administrator at the station and a former staff member at Limerick, will return as managing director of the new centre, in June.

Georgia Tech claims to be second among all United States universities in terms of expenditure on engineering research after Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Its engineering experiment station was founded in 1919 to promote scientific, engineering and industrial research. The station employs more than 1,100 people and now handles research projects in more than 30 countries.

The new Limerick centre will be modelled on the Georgia station. Its services will initially concentrate on the application of electronic technology and chemical and material processes, with a particular emphasis on alternative sources of energy.

Technology News

Computer traffic control development

A computer-based road traffic control system has been ordered by West Midlands County Council to improve traffic control in Coventry.

The Split Cycle time and Offset Optimization Technique (Scoot) has been developed jointly by a number of manufacturers in conjunction with the Department of Industry and the Ministry of Transport, and the Transport and Road Research Laboratory.

The Coventry scheme is to be implemented by Ferranti Computer Systems, Manchester, one of the companies involved in the Scoot development. The system uses softwar to optimize the traffic flow by computing traffic-light signal settings from data on actual traffic conditions, rather than working to fixed time plans.

The existing Ferranti traffic-control system for Coventry, which went into service in 1977, now controls about 130 intersections in the city. Scoot will be applied to about 50 of these, rising eventually to more than 100.

Telephones adapted for hard of hearing

British Telecom is to begin to adapt many of Britain's 77,000 public telephone kiosks over the next 18 months for use by the hard of hearing.

The earpiece of the handset will be fitted with an inductive coupler which will react with the pickup coil in the user's hearing aid. The coupler will be linked to the hearing aid by an electromagnetic loop which will work on a principle similar to that used when a voltage is "stepped up" or "stepped down" in a transformer.

In the past, hearing aid users have found making telephone calls extremely difficult because simply turning up the volume on the aid has allowed background noise to be amplified as well as speech, and if the hearing aid was allowed to rub against the handset the friction has created further noise interference.

Kenneth Owen and Bill Johnstone

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Governing the City of London

From the Leader of the Greater London Council

Sir, Mr Tony Banks's diatribe (March 11) against the continuation of the City Corporation as a unit of local government should be seen in context.

His party is committed to the abolition of the City Corporation and of the House of Lords. Within his party there is growing pressure for the abolition of the monarchy. The objective is a grey, sombre and ostensibly "classless" society and the strategy is to knock over these institutions one by one.

This explains attacks on other institutions. The Metropolitan Police are threatened with "political control" of their activities, and already one London Borough, Lambeth, has declared itself a no-go area as far as certain aspects of policing are concerned.

The banks, the insurance companies and the building societies are all quite openly endangered by nationalization foreshadowed in the London Labour Party manifesto for the GLC election.

These institutions have one thing in common: they are all bulwarks of free enterprise, of freedom and of our hallowed traditions. To those who seek revolution in our society, and who must in pursuit of it cause devastation, they are all natural targets.

Yours sincerely,
HORACE CUTLER,
Leader of the Greater London Council,
The County Hall,
London, SE1 7PB.

From Mr C. Douglas Woodward

Sir, Mr Banks (March 11) has again made clear the Labour Party's intent to abolish the City of London Corporation as a separate unit of local government. From the tenor of his letter it seems to me that he is not really interested in whether the City is "democratic" or not but that he is anti-City of London as a matter of left-wing principle, in just the same way that the Labour left are anti-House of Lords and anti-monarchy.

He gives the impression in his letter that the City Corporation is a collection of rotten boroughs. The truth of the matter, as those of us who live and work in the City know well, is that the City Corporation is among the most efficient of local authorities with highly dedicated staff. Our own housekeeping is such that our rate demand for City services this year is among the lowest in the country.

The accusation that we are not democratic is absurd if one takes into account the fact that we elect our councillors every 12 months. Admittedly we have rather a lot of councillors for our small area but surely that is no bad thing, especially when one remembers that we are the only council in the country whose members do not receive any attendance allowance!

Compare City local government with what is going on in places like Lambeth and Camden where Mr Banks's friends preside and you perhaps can see why they look with envious and destructive eyes at the way we conduct our affairs.

Yours faithfully,
C. DOUGLAS WOODWARD,
Members' Room,
Guildhall,
London, EC2P 2EJ.

Tentacles of taxation

From Mr Terry Clements

Sir, Many years ago I was advised by an American professional poker player never to play in a house which takes a cut of every pot but to stick to games where a flat fee is charged for a seat at the table.

"When the house takes a slice off the top every time the money circulates, the house pretty quickly ends up owning all the loot and you have to beg for the cab fare home," he said, "and that doesn't make for contented players."

I recalled his words while listening to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Budget speech on the radio this afternoon. The complexity of our taxation system is such that its tentacles reach out and take a slice out of every pot that we try to create; today, the Chancellor has increased the thickness of quite a few of those slices.

Could it perhaps be that the reason why the recession is substantially worse and unemployment higher in Britain than in most other countries is that successive governments have left us insufficient money to play with? As a small businessman, I do know that our taxation system is too complicated, too full of injustices and anomalies and its weight is now oppressive. Sir Geoffrey Howe has done nothing to relieve these and, quite frankly, the obeisance he has made towards the small entrepreneur isn't worth the cab fare home.

Yours faithfully,
TERRY CLEMENTS,
36 Eaton Rise,
London W5 2ER.
March 10.

The advantages of cold washing

From Mrs Jean Skevington

Sir, I read Derek Harris's article in *The Times* today (March 3), "Black days for white goods", and am amazed that no one here seems to realize that one doesn't need heat to wash clothes perfectly well, given a purpose-made cold powder. I am fortunate in having a Philips machine with a no-heat programme and always bring back a supply of cold powder from America.

If washing machine manufacturers made a machine with a cold programme and supplied the washing powder with the machine, I think many people would be delighted to save the electricty used in heating the water. In Australia, New Zealand, as well as America, cold powders are used extensively.

Yours faithfully,
JEAN SKEVINGTON,
100 Cornwall Gardens,
London SW7.

How ½p increases cost of living

From Mrs Jan Ainsworth-Smith

Sir, Am I really the only consumer who queries things?

I have just bought 1¼ metres of lace seam binding at 10p per metre from our local departmental store (part of a well-known chain) for which I was charged 13p. Upon pointing out that the amount should in fact be 12½p I was informed that the computerized tills (which apparently feed into the central chain computer) will not cope with ½p amounts and the price is therefore rounded up to the nearest penny. The management of the store confirmed this and said (a) that I was the first customer to query this practice; and (b) that to avoid this happening again they would now be rounding all prices up before the customer sees the price tag.

Is this happening universally? If so, does not this type of action contribute to the ever increasing cost of living? Amounts of ½p may seem very tiny but they soon mount up: I can see the ½p coin fast disappearing unless something is done soon.

Yours faithfully,
JEAN M. H. AINSWORTH-SMITH,
107 West Side,
Clapham Common,
London SW4 9AZ.
March 13.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Standard Chartered buys British

It is no secret that Standard Chartered wants a stronger assets base in Britain. So what better time to choose than now when British banks are gloomily contemplating the havoc wreaked by the Chancellor on their balance sheets and when their prospects seem worse than they have been for some time.

Some afficionados of Standard Chartered will of course be disappointed whatever the deal. But that apart it is well-timed on the theory that one buys companies when their profits are falling. How good a deal for either party will depend on the terms which will become known today.

No two banking groups could be more dissimilar in either outlook or financial strength. The budget, for example, will affect each in completely different ways. S & C will pay only about £1m in the new windfall tax, while RBS will be lucky to get away with much less than ten times that amount.

S & C is international and spreads into some of the world's fastest growth areas such as the Far East and the American West Coast, indeed it has sometimes been described as a Pacific Bank. Britain has been largely left out of its expansion and the price paid has been not only problems with Advanced Corporation Tax, but also the lack of benefits from SSAP 15 standard on deferred tax under which other banks have been making hay with their leasing business. In its search for United Kingdom assets S & C has painfully learnt that new branches are extremely difficult to establish.

While S & C has been expanding and is still going ahead it has had to run its finances tightly. The result of expansion and the acquisition of the Union Bank of California is that the free capital ratio is a measly 1.5, if minorities are taken out and no more than 3.3 if they are included.

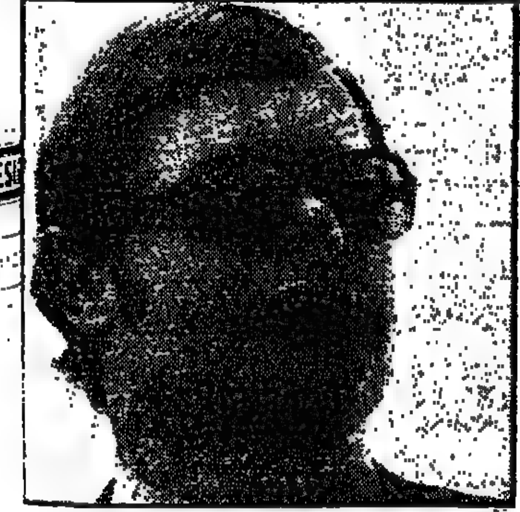
The reverse is the case with RBS. It is stolid, local, extremely strong financially with a free capital ratio of 5.8, one of the best in the business. But its profits which last year reached £100m are likely to be down to between £80m and £90m this year and it is fully exposed to the United Kingdom economy. S & C on the other hand is likely to see its profits soar from £170m to, perhaps, as much as £230m this year.

Meanwhile, if market rumours of a one-for-four share exchange offer are right, then each RBS share would be valued at 175p compared to only 96p before the deal and 86p before the rumours. For RBS shareholders this would be attractive. Their shares stood on a p/e ratio of only 4 fully-taxed before the news, but 175p compares to assets of 220p.

Suter

Mr Abell's baby

The arrival of Mr David Abell at Suter Electrical, first as a shareholder and then as chairman and chief executive at the beginning of the year, promised a substantial change in the direction for the group. That promise is now being delivered. Stuter is to raise £7.7m through a rights issue to buy



Mr David Abell, Chairman of Suter Electrical

Prestcold from BL, which had been seeking a buyer for three years.

It is all in keeping with Mr Abell's aspirations to run his own show, though it appears incongruous to be merging a hair-salon equipment manufacturer with £4m sales with a commercial refrigeration and air-conditioning group whose sales are around £60m.

The underwritte noffer is of five new 40p shares in Suter and £2 convertible stock at par for four ordinary shares. This represents a 25p discount on the January suspension price and is more likely to appeal to institutions than private investors.

For although the £9m purchase, which includes £4.8m worth of BL loans to Prestcold, will take Suter's assets from £450,000 to £20m, if a £5.5m property valuation surplus is included, Prestcold lost money in the first three months of this year. Last year its pre-tax loss was £400,000.

There is no profits forecast for the combined group, although the prospectus promises a 2.13p gross dividend for a 6 per cent yield on the rights price.

So the interest in the enlarged group, in which dealing is expected to start at around 50p in three weeks, is effectively an interest in Mr Abell's management abilities. The record is certainly impressive. At 38, he is a millionaire through his 17 per cent Suter holding (which will fall to about 12 per cent after the acquisition). Moreover, he left the chairmanship of BL's vehicles division after a successful spell, having started his business career as a Lord Stokes protégé.

SDRs

A lop-sided market

The fledgling market in instruments denominated in Special Drawing Rights is showing every sign of taking off. International banks which had previously dismissed it as an interesting but unimportant side show are now turning their imaginations to the development of a new range of SDR financing devices.

The latest, due to come to the market soon—is a SDR 100m (about £55m) floating rate note issue for Italy's State-owned ENEL. Already this year there has been a steady flow of short-term bank Certificate of Deposit issues denominated in SDRs stimulated by the coordinated efforts of a group of seven banks to get an active market going. There have been two floating rate CD issues; one leading investment bank has begun market making in SDR CDs and brokers are showing interest; most important of all, there has been a highly successful bank credit in SDRs for Sweden, which attracted a response well in excess of the managers' expectation.

Clearly the simplification of the currency mix making up the SDR, which took effect from January 1, has applied a stimulus to the market.

Encouraging though all of this is, to the supporters of composite currency units, the market remains lop-sided. It has the active support of some powerful investors who view it as a means of curbing currency risk and who have placed as much as SDR 3-5,000 million on deposit with the banks.

It also looks increasingly attractive to a growing number of banks. But to show its full acceptability it needs borrowers as well. Sweden and ENEL are a start and the banks are now busy stirring up interest among others, but more are needed.

The boost the market really needs is a major financing by the International Monetary Fund which draws up its accounts in SDRs. The IMF has never hitherto tapped the international markets but it may soon have no alternative, and bankers are taking it for granted that any deal would be denominated in SDRs.

● *Meanwhile with United States interest rates continuing to ease gently downwards, the dollar lost ground against European currencies yesterday, not least against sterling which bounced up almost two cents to just under $2.24. How long dollar rates will continue to decline remains an open question, but so long as they do then sterling will almost certainly continue to appreciate. That, in turn, will be good news for the gilt-edged market, where longs were again buoyant yesterday and the Government Broker was able to supply more of the 1990 tap.*

The latest industrial production figures on the other hand do not make such reading. Provisional estimates show a further sharp fall in output in January. As far as the February trade figures go, a smaller surplus was only to be expected after the enormous surplus in January.

Hugh Stephenson

A practical issue – not a moral one

Something is almost always wrong when moral propositions are argued in the name of hard economic reality. And suspicion is equally valid when perfectly ordinary economic arguments about inflation, government spending *and recession are presented in terms of* high morality.

Thus, despite the fact that the Prime Minister bravely fought herself and her Chancellor out of their post-Budget corner in her speech at the Mansion House last week, it is highly questionable whether the application of transplanted notions of Victorian financial rectitude will be greatly relevant to our condition in the next two or three years.

Although conventional economics is largely in impotent disarray, it would be nice if, between now and the next round of public spending cuts, economic problems could be discussed primarily, if not exclusively, in economic terms.

The course of events will be roughly as follows. After last night's alarms and excursions over the Budget resolutions, things will go quiet for a while. Interest may revive a little when the Finance Bill eventually goes into its committee stage, but not much at least on the economic front.

For while the Budget was stuffed full of enough work to keep accountants and tax lawyers in business for a decade, it only impinges at a tangent on the economy. The action will begin in earnest in late June and July as the Treasury takes spending departments through the first rounds of the public spending review by 1982-3 before everyone goes off on their summer holidays.

What they will find is that several of the major spending programmes are overrunning their cash limits by substantial amounts. They will then discover that it is totally impossible to bring spending for the year in question down to the level included in the White Paper published last week. The reason is that, after five years of almost continuous exercises in public spending cuts under two governments, there is little left to cut but flesh.

At the risk of letting th eneedle stick in the groove, the reason why the Government faces this extended journey down a cul-de-sac is that it persists in trying to find a one dimensional solution to a multi-dimensional problem.

Inflation may well be a moral evil, or at least have socially undesirable consequences, but an economic policy cannot have a single aim, any more than it can have a single chosen policy instrrment, if it is to have any chance of success.

Whether the Prime Minister likes it or not, there are three groups of economic policy instruments—fiscal, monetary and prices and incomes. Of these three, the influence of the third, though the weakest, is not negligible. What is certain is that the chance of any policy workin gis greatly reduced, if these groups of policy instruments are pulling in different directions.

Because this Government has only had eyes for the inflation rate and only been concerned with control of monetary aggregates, it has put itself in an extremely vulnerable position. In presentational terms, if it fails on its chosen narrow ground, it fails entirely.

In real terms, it forces the Government to try to promote recovery by monetary means (that is, reducing interest rates), while at the same time deflationary fiscal strategy. With fiscal strategy still pulling hard downwards, it would be astonishing if the Financial Secretary proved to be right in supposing that monetary policy will generate an even stronger push in the other direction.

As for incomes policy, while it is well known that, in common with proportional representation, the very words are anathema in the Prime Minister's presence, the fact is that a modern government in a mixed economy with a large public sector must have at least a policy for incomes. The lesson was learned when, at the end of her first year in office, Mrs Thatcher found that Whitehall's pay bill had risen by no less than 25 per cent.

It is, therefore, not a moral issue but a practical one. Professor Minford and his Liverpool Research Group assert that inflation will fall to 5½ per cent next yea rand 4 per cent in 1983. On present policies, they argue unemployment will peak at 2¾ million and begin falling in 1982. If that happens, Mrs Thatcher should be home and dry. It is good to have what might be regarded as the extreme Lawson-Liverpool forecasts on the record. My bones tell me that they are grossly optimistic.

In that case Mrs Thatcher by the summer will need an account of her economic strategy for the rest of this Parliament that accommodates the fact that inflation will not come down into low single figures, that production will not be picking up and that unemployment will still be rising steadily to three million and beyond. It would be easier if the world was kinder and that simple answers worked quickly. But experience tends to suggest that it is not.

The Royal Bank of Scotland is in merger talks. Ronald Pullen reports

Raid over the border

For a bank with such a staid reputation, Standard Chartered has an unnerving capacity to surprise the banking world every few years.

Yesterday it caught the City unawares when it announced that it was in merger talks with the Royal Bank of Scotland, a euphemism in anyone's language given that Standard Chartered's stockmarket valuation of more than £600m is some three times higher than Royal Bank's. The move marks the biggest shake-up in British banking since the mergers of the late 1960's.

There has been no shortage of speculation for the past year about Royal Bank's future. Most of this has centred on some possible rearrangement of its shareholdings in Lloyds & Scottish, a leading finance house, where Lloyds Bank has long been tipped to take on Royal Bank's stake.

It was thought that Royal Bank, which has displayed aggressive overseas ambitions in recent years, might be persuaded to give over its holding in return for Lloyds' share in Grindlays, which has extensive foreign interests.

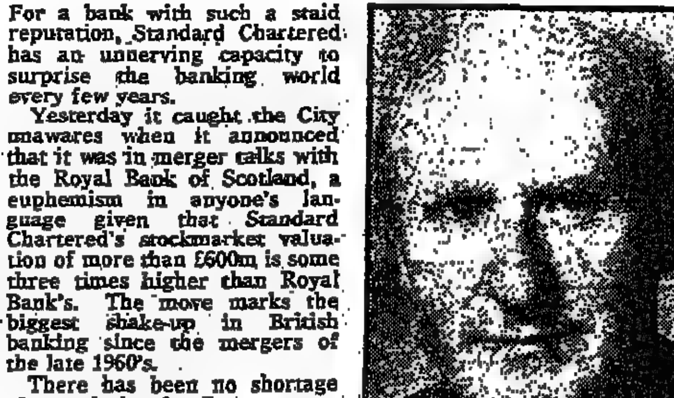
On top of that, the Kuwait Investment Office, never slow to sniff out a prospect in the financial field, has been steadily buying shares and at present holds around 7 per cent of Royal Bank.

Whether Standard Chartered has been prompted into making its move by these rumours—particularly as both Lloyds and Royal Bank could be faced with some uncomfortable decisions if Citibank, the other large shareholder in Grindlays, is eventually successful in finding a buyer—is anyone's guess.

But there is little doubt that Standard, which likes to refer to itself as "Britain's largest independent international bank", has been steadily changing its shape since Lord Barber, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, took over the helm in 1974.

Running contrary to the London clearing banks which have been taking the overseas expansion road in recent years, part of Standard Chartered's central strategy now is to build up its United Kingdom base.

It made its first serious acquisition in this country in 1973 when it acquired the Hodge Group, a piece of singularly unfortunate timing since Hodge's finance house operations almost immediately ran slap into the secondary banking crisis. The shadow of Hodge has been hanging over the group ever since and only recently has it finally been expunged.





Lord Barber (above), chairman of Standard Chartered; and (right) Sir Michael Herries, chairman of the Royal Bank of Scotland, outside the bank's Dundas House, Edinburgh.

There have been other minor purchases such as Mocatta and Goldsmid, the bullion dealers, the 51 per cent it did not own in Tozer Standard and Chartered the merchant bank and Wallace Brothers, another unquoted merchant bank.

Apart from a small network of about 20 offices, catering mainly for business customers, Standard Chartered has no retail base in Britain. It must have looked enviously at the handsome profits the London clearing banks have been making recently on their domestic business.

In turn that is no more than a reflection of the worldwide trend in banking which is to concentrate more on the domestic retail business rather than the more glamorous international operations which have been the main thrust of banks for the last decade and which have now become less profitable and considerably riskier.

There has also been another strand in Standard's thinking over the years and that has been to reduce its exposure to South Africa. The merging of the Standard and Chartered banks in 1970 gave the combined group an uncomfortably large presence in the republic which has done nothing for the share price since South African earnings started to look risky.

Three years ago Standard Chartered joined the United Kingdom banks' assault on the United States when it acquired Union Bancorp of California following its failure the previous year to buy another Californian bank BanCal Tristate.

So with a diversified overseas presence in the Far East, the Pacific Basin and the United States, which has entailed a heavy financial cost involving frequent rights issues over the years, Standard Chartered now seems to have set its sights on the United Kingdom.

Certainly events over the last couple of years have given it more room to manoeuvre. Midland and International Banks—a consortium which includes the Midland—loosened its links with Standard two and a half years ago. Last year the Midland itself sold its 16 per cent, most of which had been acquired from Chase Manhattan in 1975.

Without Midland to worry about, Standard Chartered still has to see what attitude Lloyds Bank (with its 16 per cent holding in Royal Bank) takes to this threat of increased competition at home.

That may appear remote but the old "keep off the grass" rule which kept Scottish banks in Scotland and English ones in England, has been slowly breaking down.

In any case, Royal Bank is made up of two distinct banks, Royal Bank itself and Williams and Glyn's, which ranks number five among the clearers in England.

Royal Bank, whose chairman is Sir Michael Herries, is the product of the merger in 1968 of National Commercial Bank (which is now known as Williams and Glyn's) and the Royal Bank of Scotland. Royal Bank is the largest of the Scottish banks and while it has benefited from the buoyancy of the Scottish economy and North Sea oil, its profitability falls some way behind the London clearers.

This is because Scotland tends to have too many branches in relation to deposits. Another reason is that Scottish customers are rather fonder of playing the interest-rate game between their current and deposit accounts. Finally, there is a greater reliance on the wholesale money markets to fund the growth in advances.

Williams & Glyn's, with 330 branches, the smallest of the British clearers, has had a slightly chequered history. The bank is widely felt to have had greater problems than the London clearers during the secondary banking crisis because of its higher proportion of lending in the personal and financial sectors.

Indeed in the late 1970s Royal Bank's Edinburgh management quietly carried out a "tartan" revolution and many of the London bank's top management were replaced.

If Standard Chartered is successful in absorbing Royal Bank—and the approval of the Bank of England may be more important than the Monopolies Commission—it will mark a further stage in the concentration of British banking.

After the mergers of the late 1960s there has been very little tidying up left in the United Kingdom without running the gauntlet of the monopolies legislation and the Scottish banks have jealously guarded their independence until now.

It still remains to be seen whether this cosy amalgamation will be allowed to go through.

After all, the big groups do not put the for sale sign up every day in Britain's hugely profitable banking parlours.

Business Diary: Nipped in the Budd • Food values

Who would have foreseen it. Just the day before it begins its inquiry into this year's Budget, the Treasury Committee of the House of Commons has been hit by the resignation of a leading adviser.

Alan Budd, director of the Centre for Economic Forecasting at the London Business School and generally regarded as the committee's token international monetarist, has written to the committee saying that he feels completely outnumbered by Keynesians.

Behind Budd's departure is a sense of deep disillusionment with the way the committee drew up its recent report on monetary policy. That report, which was heavily critical of the Government, was strongly influenced by Jeremy Bray, the Labour MP for Motherwell. It contained a note inserted at the last minute warning that not all the advisers to the committee were prepared to accept the conditions.

Although Budd is recognized as one of the leaders of the international monetarist school, which is close to the Government's thinking, he makes it clear in his letter that he does not want the committee to be converted to international monetarism overnight.

He thinks that advisers should advise on the technical questions. He says that in practice they have been asked to act as advocates for a particular policy, something which he does not want to do.

But there is no doubt that he has been annoyed by the strongly Keynesian tone adopted by most of the committee's advisers.

And while we are on Treasury matters, Business Diary begs to disagree with Great George Street over the cost of the day's national holiday for the wedding on July 29 of Prince Charles and Lady Diana.

The Treasury is making the point that industry can make up the £1,000m in lost production because people will work harder, being more cheerful after the wedding and the holiday.

This ingenious notion, suggested in a recent memorandum by Nigel Lawson, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, is not borne out by the productivity figures for 1977, Jubilee year. People worked much the same as before.

Fathers of brides and ladies in general are expected to get damp-eyed about weddings: not so Financial Secretaries.

Mystification and even embarrassment at British Aerospace over the mysterious aircraft model (right) which Mr and Mrs D. A. Logan of Weybridge found in a second-hand storage cupboard which Mrs Logan bought from BA's predecessors, British Aircraft Corporation.

The cupboard had no key and stood in the Logans' garage at Weybridge, Surrey, for three years until Mr Logan attacked it recently with a screwdriver and a hammer. When the door opened, the futuristic "plane" was revealed, mounted upside down on a stand in the way of aircraft companies' wind tunnel models.

So far, nobody in British Aerospace has been able to identify it, even though it incorporates some novel features, the most striking of which are wing-tip mounted engines which presumably swivel to give vertical take-off and landing.

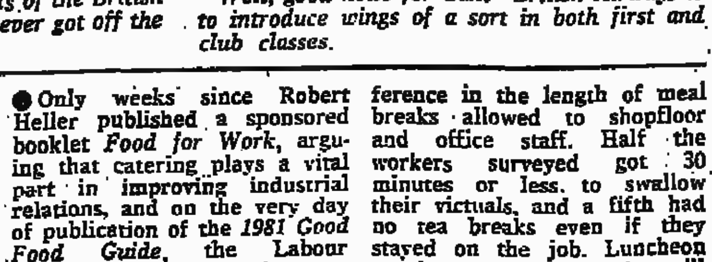
The "missiles" on the wings are more likely long-range fuel tanks. Could it be the design for an advanced and, at the time, secret fighter which, like so many other projects of the British aircraft industry since the war, never got off the ground?



● *Reader John Gant of Caversham was intrigued by my recent item about airlines installing better seating on jumbos.*

Why, he inquired, don't airlines put wings on the head cushions similar to the old-style wing armchairs? "If one tries to sleep in the present seats, one's head continually rolls off the side of the head cushions", he writes.

Well, good news for Gant—British Airways is to introduce wings of a sort in both first and club classes.



● Only weeks since Robert Heller published a sponsored booklet *Food for Work*, arguing that catering plays a vital part in improving industrial relations, and on the very day of publication of the *1981 Good Food Guide*, the Labour Research Department throws a sizable lump of overcooked spam in the works.

Their bi-monthly *Bargaining Report* conducted its own survey of canteen facilities and concluded that "a Victorian attitude of class-distinction prevails".

Culinary apartheid, it alleges, splits workers from the management, sometimes excluding workers from the "staff" canteen even where no alternative eating place is available.

There was also a sharp difference in the length of meal breaks allowed to shopfloor and office staff. Half the workers surveyed got 30 minutes or less to swallow their victuals, and a fifth had no tea breaks even if they stayed on the job. Luncheon vouchers are a perk still almost exclusively reserved to office workers.

Fixed meal allowances payable to non-management employees fall far behind the actual cost of buying meals away from work, and bear no relation to the £20 a head the *Good Food Guide* reckoned could be paid for "deplorable food".

The most generous fixed allowance was £8 for a main evening meal paid by Berger Paints. More typical were companies paying £1.50 or less.

● There was, though you could be forgiven for not noticing, a scrap of help for the unemployed in the Budget. Those drawing unemployment benefit will in future be allowed to earn £2 a day, but not 75p as before.

This is fine as far as it goes, though still way below the amounts that old age pensioners are allowed to gather

There is, however, supposed to be a crackdown on those fraudulently receiving benefits

Detecting this sort of sponging has previously involved fraud officers staking our building sites with binoculars and walkie-talkie equipment. Now their task will be horribly complicated. Not only will they have to show that the unemployed are in fact working, but they will have to be able to show how much they are being paid as well.

I was in one of those arty-crafty potters buying a present for somebody who likes that kind of thing, when I noticed a most incongruous poster which stated, without any artistic flourish at all, the penalties for shoplifting. The potter explained that he had been downstairs potting one day recently when he heard the door go in his otherwise unattended shop. He was just in time to chase and catch some boys who had run off with some of his wares. On returning with them to the shop, he caught a well-dressed old lady coming out with another lot. I think he should either move or make heavier pots.

Ross Davies

FINANCIAL NEWS

Stock markets

Selective buying lifts electricals sector

Selective buying of electricals helped the new account to make a firm start yesterday in spite of low turnover.

Dealers complained of a subdued approach by investors unwilling to open new positions in the wake of last week's Budget proposals. One leading jobber said that the market appeared to be adopting a "wait-and-see" attitude.

Nevertheless, selective buying in a thin market and a lack of selling pressure saw prices advance across the board. Electricals were one sector particularly sensitive to the tight conditions with prices making strong headway first thing. But engineering shares were weaker as GKN tumbled 8p to 128p ahead of figures tomorrow.

The February trade figures, showing a current account surplus of £614m, were up to most expectations and provided the market with little in the way of inspiration.

However, sentiment was improved after hours by news that the Royal Bank of Scotland, whose shares had been active all morning, had been suspended 6p higher at 96p.

This was followed a little later by the suspension of Standard Chartered, 2p lower at 697p, and the announcement that the two were in talks which might lead to a merger. Interest was then focused on Grindlays Holdings, a long time takeover favourite, which closed 20p higher at 183p, after 185p, while Bank of Scotland added 5p to 292p.

In the event, the *FT* Index, having been 1.4 lower at 11 am, ended at its high for the day 2.6 up at 479.8.

Government securities maintained their recent strong run which enabled the Government broker to sell more of the new "tap" Exchequer 12¼ per cent *1990 at its closing price of* £15¼. The latest cut in United States prime rates by the Chase Manhattan and First National Bank of Chicago by ½ per cent to 17½ per cent was mostly ignored. In longs, gains of between £⅛ and £⅜ were reported while at the shorter end the rises were limited to around £⅛.

Leading industrials spent a neglected day although prices were usually better on balance. **ICI** rallied 6p to 232p, in spite of the loss of another 1,000 jobs, while **Beechams** hardened 4p to 165p, **Unilever** 3p to 483p and **Fisons** 5p to 133p.

The flurry of takeover activity did not extend to the four big clearers, which spent a quiet day unable to establish any definite trend. **Midland**, the last of the four to announce figures, closed 5p lower at 315p, ahead of Friday's report, with **Barclays** shedding 14p at 381p. **Lloyds** advanced 3p to 308p and **National Westminster** finished all square at 351p.

Discount houses remained static in spite of last week's cut in MLR, with **Gillett Bros** on 249p, **Clive Discount** on 48p, **Gerrard & National** on 316p and **Alexanders** on 262p, all unchanged. But in financials, **Lloyds & Scottish**, where Royal Bank of Scotland holds close on 40 per cent, leapt 14p to 187p on the merger news, with jobbers **Akroyd & Smithers** jumping 13p to 186p still reflecting the current strength of gilts.

Saxon Oil has come from nowhere quickly. Put together less than a year ago under the sponsorship of Clyde Petroleum along with Gartmore and Electra House, Saxon has already raised £15m through a private placement and its success in last week's seventh round licences points to another cash-raising exercise soon. A quote on the unlisted securities market cannot be far away.

Elsewhere on the takeover front, **Savoy Hotel 'A'** improved 2p to 168p awaiting further developments following its rejection of the bid from **Trusthouse Forte**, which rose 1p to 198p after its annual meeting. **Tunnel Holdings 'A'** climbed 5p to 388p after rejecting *the bid from T. W. Ward*, up 4p at 120p amid speculation that another bidder is waiting in the wings.

In papers, **BPC** rose 3p to 20p, still awaiting news of the bid from Pergamon Press, while **Bristol Evening Post**, the subject of an approach from Associated News, rallied a similar amount to 176p.

But in foods, **Robertson Foods** remained unchanged at 135p, after a circular to shareholders urging rejection of the bid from Avana up 1p at 206p. Shares of **Jamaica Sugar** tumbled 16p to 20p on news that the Stock Exchange had decided to withdraw the quote following the closure of Mr Nicholas De Savary's offer. Meanwhile, speculative demand lifted **Bernard Matthews** 15p to 358p with **United Biscuits** continuing to benefit from recent figures 6p up at 102p.

Improved profit performances lifted **W. Canning** 4p to 59p, **Metalrax** 2p to 45p, and **H. Woodward** 6p to 28p. But disappointing news left **Hanimex** 7p lower at 63p and **Waterford Glass** 2p at 20p.

Still benefiting from recent figures, **William Collins** rose 7p to 158p.

Speculative demand lifted **Ellenroad Mill** 5p to 17p, **Negretti & Zambra** 10p to 36p, **Crest Nicholson** 11p to 160p, and **South West Consolidated** 4p to 31p.

A favourable brokers circular gave **Hawley Leisure** a 3½p fillip at 55½p, with favourable mention helping **Smiths Industries** 7p at 317p, **Thomas Walker** 5p at 13p, **Barratt Developments** 4p at 202p, **Meekatharra** 50p at 570p, **Haden Carrier** 8p at 232p and **R. Kelvin Watson** 4p at 99p.

But adverse comment about possible losses from its recent *Fairey acquisition lopped* 15p from **S. Pearson** at 206p. The resignation of its managing director hit **MFI**, down 4p to 53p.

Equity turnover on March 13, was £170.577m (20,227 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were Sound Diffusion, Brengreen, Crest Nicholson, British Home Stores, Racal, Hawley Leisure, GEC, W Driefontein, Vaal Reefs, Blyvoors, Royal Bank of Scotland, Premier Cons, S Pearson, Thorn EMI, St Helena and F. S. Geduld.

Traditional options: Dealers reported increased activity yesterday. Calls were made in ICI, Turner and Newall, Massey Ferguson, Metal Box, Burmah, Robertson Foods, Cons Gold and Bowater. A put was arranged in Brown and Jackson, and doubles completed in Thomas Borthwick, FNFC, and Cons Gold.

Traded options: A total of 505 contracts were made. Cons Gold attracted 152, Courts 131, Commercial Union 14, GEC 36, BP 21, and ICI 58.

Latest results

Company Int or Fin	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Div pence	Pay date	Year's total
W. Canning (F)	62.2(55.1)	1.63(1.74)	10.11(8.98)	2.25(2.25)	1/7	3.98(3.98)
Jas Fisher (F)	14.5(12.8)	3.04(2.97)	12.6(12.46)	1.15(1.00)	19/5	2.15(1.75)
Kwahu (I)	—(—)	0.04(0.05)	—(—)	—(—)	—	—(—)
Metalrax (F)	22.7(21.6)	1.86(2.53)	6.53(8.24)	1.58(1.53)	22/5	2.4(2.27)
Relyon (F)	11.8(13.04)	1.4(1.85)	14.7(11.33)	3.0(3.75)	26/5	4.8(6.0)
Suter Electrical (I)	2.03(1.55)	0.19(0.16)	1.24(0.94)	1.25(1.3)	29/5	—(1.5)
Seascope (I)	3.29(2.7)	0.58(0.58)	—(—)	—(—)	—	—(—)
Trade Indemnity (F)	26.9(21.8)	5.2(4.7)	36.19(32.68)	4.14(3.6)	—	6.34(5.6)
Victor (I)	6.4(4.7)	0.5(0.7)	5.71(6.4)	1.5(1.5)	10/4	—(4.25)
Waterford (F)	154.0*(135.5*)	8.05*(11.6*)	2.99*(4.43*)	0.11*(—)	—	1.5*(1.5*)
H. Woodward (F)	11.9(11.2)	0.3(0.4)	13.65(11.15)	1.7(1.7)	—	2.2(2.2)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pretax and earnings are net. * Irish currency.

Uncertainty in industry lifts Trade Indemnity

By Richard Allen
Insurance Correspondent

Increasing fear of failure in industry is giving a huge boost to business carried out at Trade Indemnity, the publicly-quoted credit insurer controlled by leading insurance companies.

The group which indemnifies policy holders against losses sustained as a result of customers failing to pay for goods and services, yesterday reported a 23.5 per cent increase in premiums written last year to £26.9m.



Mr Peter Dugdale, chairman of Trade Indemnity.

Pretax profits for the year work out 11 per cent higher at £5.2m, encouraging the group to lift the final dividend from 5.14p to 5.9p gross for a total for the year of 9.05p gross, an increase of more than 13 per cent.

The group, headed by Mr Peter Dugdale, stressed however that the 1980 profit figure includes an underwriting surplus up almost 18 per cent to £3.56m on the latest completed three-year account opened in 1978. This account benefited substantially from better trading conditions during 1978, and most of 1979, before the onset of recession.

A clearer guide to current conditions in industry is given by the 5.2 per cent drop to just over £502,000 in the group's franked investment income, reflecting the return on Trade Indemnity's equity portfolio. Interest and other income increased just 5 per cent to £1.2m.

Robertson takes Avana bid to Takeover Panel

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Robertson Foods, the subject of an unwelcome £18m bid from the Cardiff-based foods group, Avana, has reported Avana to the Takeover Panel. Robertson says Avana has failed to comply with certain aspects of the Takeover Code.

A hard-hitting document was issued by Avana yesterday criticizing Robertson's profit record and suggesting that Robertson was forecasting an after-tax loss of £400,000 for 1980-81 if extraordinary items were included. The Avana document also said that if Robertson shareholders do not accept the Avana offer, the Robertson shares would fall back to 97p.

A statement from Hill Samuel, merchant bank advisers to Robertson, described the Avana document as "misleading" and pointed out that the Avana document did not carry the requisite directors' responsibility statement. This is required under Rule 14 (1) of the Takeover Code. Hill Samuel also said that Avana had not, as required under the Takeover Code, repeated its own profit *forecast in its latest letter.*

A spokesman said these matters had been pointed out to the Takeover Panel and Hill Samuel understood that Avana would be asked "to rectify the omissions".

Hill Samuel said Avana's suggestion that Robertson had forecast a loss after exceptional and extraordinary items of £400,000 was misleading. In fact, Robertson had forecast a pretax profit of £2.4m before extraordinary costs of £1.9m most of which relate to the completed reorganization of the James Robertson "Golly" preserves activity.

Avana, the Cardiff-based food manufacturer headed by Sir Julian Hodge launched its all share takeover bid for Robertson's at the end of January. Avana offered three of its own shares for four Robertson shares which at the time valued Robertson at 144p, against a market price of 139p before the offer.

The bid for a group which had twice the sales but only half the profits of Avana was immediately dismissed by Mr Christopher Robertson, the Robertson chairman. The two had been involved in talks for a week during which Robertson had said it wishes to remain independent.

Six months earlier, Robertson, was selling assets to reduce borrowings and by November had announced that pretax profits for the six months to the end of last September were down from £1.1m to £750,000.

Last week, it was forecasting £2.4m profits for the year, which ends this month, compared with £2.5m last time and £2.7m two years ago.

Metalrax drops in second half

Profits of Metalrax (Holdings) the Birmingham-based engineering group, fell from £2.53m to £1.86m in 1980, with most of the fall coming in the second half. Sales rose from £21.6m to £22.7m.

Metalrax has still raised the dividend from an effective 3.24p to 3.43p gross and the shares firmed 2p to 45p yesterday. The dividend was covered one-and-a-half times by current cost earnings. Metalrax said 1981 would be a difficult year *and short-time working was the* rule rather than the exception.

However, the company ended 1980 with improved liquidity and net cash resources of about £400,000.

Victor falls 27 pc in first half

By Our Financial Staff

Pretax profits of industrial and mining equipment maker Victor Products (Wallsend) fell 27 per cent for the six months to last October from the record levels at the same time last year.

In August the board said it expected a small short-term downturn in sales to the National Coal Board, but expected to offset this by a resurgence of interest in North Sea oil activities and by a determined attack on export markets. It said that overall the company had budgeted for growth in excess of price increases in the current year, and that the first quarter was on target. It expected that this would be also true of the first half.

Yesterday the group revealed that on a 40 per cent increase in turnover to £6.4m, pre-tax profits dropped from £730,000 to £510,000. However, the interim dividend is unchanged at 2.142p gross. The shares fell 8p to 168p.

Mr Leslie Mann, chairman, says in a statement which accompanies the figures that while significant growth in turnover was achieved in the half year, profit margins were "considerably" reduced.

In the home market, the recession has held price increases to levels well below those of sharply rising costs.

Overseas, activity was maintained despite the strength of sterling, "but only at the expense of a severe squeeze on margins," he added. He said the two small acquisitions, made in September, had no significant effect on the results.

Since October, the National Coal Board has suffered problems which have adversely affected the company. The recent announcement of Government support for coal mining is unlikely to bring much benefit in the short term, said Mr. Mann.

UK TRADE

The following are the February trade figures seasonally adjusted and corrected on a balance of payments basis for known recording errors.

£m		Visible balance	Exports fob	Imports fob
1979		−3,497	40,687	44,184
1980		+1 177	47,376	46,199
1980	Q1	−288	8,311	12,259
	Q2	−320	10,767	12,335
	Q3	+616	10,491	11,064
	Q4	+1 769	11,118	10 621
1980	Sept	−344	3,671	3,527
	Oct	+505	3 943	3,437
	Nov	+410	3,948	3,538
	Dec	+353	3 999	3,646
1981	Jan	+742	4,006	3,264
	Feb	−314	3 833	3,519

The following are the unit volume index numbers for visible trade, seasonally adjusted and the terms of trade index non-seasonally adjusted, issued yesterday by the Department of Trade.

(1975 = 100)		Volume Export	Volume Import	Terms of trade
1979		125.6	125.6	106.1
1980		127 8	119.0	103 8
1979	Q1	108 1	114 5	107.6
	Q2	126 5	130 2	106.6
	Q3	128 1	129.0	106.9
	Q4	130 1	128.9	103 5
1980	Q1	131.3	124.5	101.0
	Q2	129 4	125 8	103 4
	Q3	124 7	115.6	105 5
	Q4	126 7	110 2	105 3
1980	Sept	123.9	110.6	105 3
	Oct	125 5	106.9	105.2
	Nov	127 7	111.4	105.6
	Dec	126 9	112 4	105 1
1981	Jan	123 7	101 0	106 4
	Feb	119 5	109.2	105.1

RETAIL SALES

The following are the figures for the volume of retail sales released by the Department of Trade

		Sales by volume (seasonally adjusted) (1971 = 100)	Sales by value (not adjusted) % change on year earlier
1979	1 Qtr	105.8	+14
	2 Qtr	113 0	+20
	3 Qtr	106.6	+15
	4 Qtr	109 1	+19
1980	1 Qtr	110.2	+21
	2 Qtr	109.2	+12
	3 Qtr	108 9	+14
	4 Qtr	100.0	+10
1979	Nov	110 2	+20
	Dec	103.8	−17
1980	Jan	110.2	+21
	Feb	111.0	+21
	Nov	109.2	+11
	Dec	108.4	+9
1981	Jan	114.0	+12
	Feb	112.0(Prov)	+10(Prov)

Briefly

McMullen and Sons: Board proposes free scrip issue of one new 10½ per cent £1 cumulative preference share for every eight ordinary shares, and one new preference share for every eight preferred ordinary shares.

Kwahu: Pretax profit for half year to December 31 £42,000 (£54,000). Profit lower because of reduced receipts of dividends. Number of leading companies cutting their dividends is expected to result in lower earnings for year.

Granada Group's offer for preference shares of Whitley Bay are now unconditional. Ordinary offer was already unconditional. Offers remain open until March 27. Acceptances of ordinary received in respect of 288,235 shares (58.9 per cent) and 75.4 per cent of preference.

Dundonian: Acquisition of planned savings (holdings) has been completed.

Seascope Holdings: Turnover for half year to November 30 £3.29m (£2.73m). Pretax profit £588,000 (£579,000) including interest and dividends received, £185,000 (£221,000).

C. & J. Clark: In his annual report, Mr Daniel Clark, chairman, told shareholders that net sales for 1980 at £330.78m were 15 per cent up on 1979. However, profit before tax of £12.44m was 30 per cent down on 1979.

St Piran: a 29.57 per cent stake formerly held by Hongkong-based Gasco Investments Td has been transferred to Dutch-based subsidiary Gasco Investments (Netherlands) BV, a company set up for tax purposes to hold the shares.

Turner & Newall: Whalley & Haddow, a Warrington distributor of wallcoverings, paints and decorating materials and a subsidiary of Turner & Newall, has sold the assets of its Lancashire-based operation to PGW Holdings, a subsidiary of Berger, Jenson & Nicholson, for just over £400,000. It will retain its Glasgow business.

National Westminster Bank has launched *Small Business Digest*. At same time group has said that it is doubling to £100,000 maximum loan allowed under its capital loan scheme.

Greenbank Trust: Tilney & Co has sold 90,000 shares in Greenbank Trust for associates of Greenbank.

Neil & Spencer Holdings: Mr S. K. Proctor, the chairman, reports in his annual statement that 1981 will be another very difficult year, particularly in the early months, but he believes the group can achieve a better result.

Renold Limited: Renold Limited announces changes in its corporate structure to take effect from March 30, 1981. The company will divest itself of its trading activities and operate as a holding company. The major part of these trading activities will be transferred to a new subsidiary company, Renold Power Transmission, which will be fully responsible for its own marketing and production operations.

James Fisher and Sons: Turnover for 1980 £14.52m (£12.82m). Pretax profit £3.03m (£2.96m). Eps 12.06p (12.46p). Dividend 2.15p net (1.75p adjusted).

INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT

The following are the index numbers for industrial production in June, seasonally adjusted, released by the Central Statistical Office yesterday (1975 = 100).

		Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries
1976		102.0	101 5
1977		105.9	103.0
1978		109 8	103 9
1979		112 6	104 2
1980		104 9	94.8
Seasonally adjusted			
1979	1	110 1	102 3
	2	115.0	107.3
	3	112 7	103.2
	4	112 6	104 2
1980	1	110 0	100 1
	2	106.6	96.8
	3	102.9	93.3
	4	100.2	90.1
1980			
Jan		111 6	102 2
Feb		109 7	100 1
Mar		109.7	98.0
Apr		106.7	97 7
May		106 5	96 5
June		106 6	96.3
July		105 1	95 2
Aug		107 5	93 0
Sept		101.2	91.5
Oct		100 6	90 1
Nov		100 5	89.3
Dec		99.6	88 0
1981			
Jan		98.3	87.5
% 3-month on 3-month change (2)		−1.9	−3.6

(1) MLH 104: extraction of mineral oil and natural gas.
(2) Average of November 1980 to January 1981 compared with the average of August to October 1980

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W Canning ahead despite second-half setback

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Profits of W. Canning, the industrial holding company, fell by a third to £615,000 in the second half of 1980 as the recession began to bite. But after the strong first half, when profits nearly doubled, Canning still ended its 60th year as a public company with profits ahead by 13 per cent to £1.63m. *Sales increased* at the same rate to £62.2m.

Worst hit by the fall-off in demand, were the process plant operations. Two companies, W. Canning Engineering and Holyhead Engineering, made combined trading losses of £750,000 — up from £390,000 the year before. Both have been slimmed down and overheads reduced. The workforce at W. Canning Engineering was halved and the order book is now strong; so barring a further slump in demand, there should be no further losses. The outlook at Holyhead is less certain, but the workload is *reasonable*.

Canning reduced the group workforce by 425 to 1,400 during 1980 and redundancy costs were the main item in the £321,000 extraordinary debit.

The restructuring has freed properties which realized £503,000 last year and further properties, in the books at £821,000, will be sold in 1981.

These asset sales, together with savings from working capital, helped to contain borrowings which have fallen as a percentage of shareholders' funds from 56 to 37 per cent. This was before including a £897,000 surplus on property values. Interest charges also fell from £928,000 to £876,000.

The group's metal recovery, chemicals and electronic distribution companies all performed well in 1980 and the Australian subsidiary, which lost £203,000 in 1979 turned round to a £45,000 profit with the help of new management.

But Canning says the prospects for United Kingdom manufacturing are gloomy with no sign of recovery from the depressed levels experienced towards *the end* of last year.

Because of the state of the economy and the need to conserve cash Canning is paying an unchanged dividend of 5.68p gross. Under current cost accounting, which reduces pretax profits to £922,000, the dividend cover was 1.1.

Canning is proposing to change its articles of association to enable it to withhold *voting rights from nominee* shareholders, who will not disclose the beneficial owner. The move is a precaution against foreign predators secretly building up a stake in the company.

Canning said yesterday that there had not been any signs of nominees buying shares nor had the group had any takeover approaches.

Fairey Holdings

Mr Angus Murray was incorrectly described in yesterday's Business News as managing director of Fairey Holdings: he is *in fact* deputy chairman. Mr Kenneth Bacon is the group chief executive.

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	12%
Barclays	12%
BCCI	12%
Consolidated Crdts	14%
C. Hoare & Co	*12%
Lloyds Bank	12%
Midland Bank	12%
Nat Westminster	12%
TSB	12%
Williams and Glyn's	12%

* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 9%, up to £50,000 9¼%, over £50,000 10¼%.

Private placing raises £2m for computer group

The board of Spanverne Investments announces that a private placing of 1,212,000 25p ordinary shares at 165p per share has been completed by Robert Fleming and Co, in conjunction with stockbrokers, Kitkat and Aitken.

The shares have been placed with a number of UK institutions and the placing has raised £2m, including some £228,000 for certain existing shareholders. The enlarged issued share capital amounts to £1,002,295 and capitalizes the group (at the placing price) at £6.6m.

The largest subsidiary is Digico Limited which has been manufacturing a wide range of high quality minicomputers in the United Kingdom for some 15 years. Digico has enjoyed considerable expansion in recent years and expects to announce shortly a move into microcomputers.

For the year ended September 30, 1980, consolidated profit before tax of Spanverne was £310,000 on turnover of £3.5m. Net tangible assets at that date amounted to £1.25m (£2.89m adjusted for the placing).

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

1980-81 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div(p)	Yld %	P/E
75	39	Airsprung Group	64	—	6.7	10.5	5.8
50	21	Armitage & Rhodes	50	—	1.4	2.8	20.6
192	92½	Bardon Hill	189	+1	9.7	5.1	7.1
98	83	Deborah Services	94	−1	5.5	5.9	4.7
126	88	Frank Horsell	106	—	6.4	6.0	3.3
110	39	Frederick Parker	42	+1	1.7	4.0	18.3
110	74	George Blair	74	—	3.1	4.2	—
110	59	Jackson Group	106	−1	6.9	6.5	4.0
124	103	James Burrough	117	—	7.9	6.8	9.6
334	244	Robert Jenkins	325	−2	31.3	9.6	—
55	50	Scruttons 'A'	51	—	5.3	10.4	3.7
224	215	Torday Limited	215	—	15.1	7.0	3.7
23	10	Twinlock Ord	10½	−½	—	—	—
90	69	Twinlock 15% ULS	72	—	15.0	20.8	—
56	35	Unilock Holdings	47	—	3.0	6.4	7.2
103	81	Walter Alexander	100	—	5.7	5.7	5.5
263	181	W. S. Yeates	261	−2	12.1	4.6	4.3

Mr Eldridge consolidates his Milford stake

By Our Financial Staff

Milford Docks, the scene of many boardroom tussles over the last few years, learned yesterday that Mr Richard Eldridge, who led the group of dissenting shareholders, has consolidated his stake in the company.

Mr Eldridge, who recently *won his long fight to gain re*presentation on the board, has consolidated his stake under the private investment group, North Ambersham Investments. North Ambersham, where Mr Eldridge is the main shareholder, holds 10.7 per cent of Milford Docks and has brought together the holdings of a number of shareholders who previously acted in concert with him

Review of brokers' charges due soon

By Philip Robinson

The results of the first major study in five years into the charges paid by investors to their stockbrokers should be before the full Stock Exchange Council within three months.

Since 1978—two years after the Stock Exchanged last reviewed the minimum commissions to be charged—the Commissions and Dealings Committee of the Exchange has been conducting surveys on levels of business, income and expenditure. The results, with a recommendation, are expected to be with the Stock Exchange before June when Mr Peter Stevens retires after three years as committee chairman.

The committee has taken a survey selecting one in every 200 bargains and a further survey monitoring 1 in 50 transactions of member firms. It has also taken the cost and income survey for 1979 and 1980 from one *in five member* firms.

The committee is still sifting through the survey information *which is designed to give an* indication of investing trends and commission, versus costs. It could be that they will eventually recommend that the system remains unchanged.

Most stockbrokers have already increased the charge to investors as minimum commissions have fallen out of line with inflation. But the decision which it is thought the Exchange will have to make is whether the minimum charges should be increased to the current level of real charges being paid by investors, or whether they should remain where they are

The current minimum charge for a bargain worth up to £467 is £7, or 1½ per cent For an average £100,000 bargain the charge is 0.4 per cent, and for a bargain over £1.7m it is 0.125 per cent.

Waterford Glass holds dividend despite fall

The board of Waterford Glass says that the reduction in pretax profits from £Irish 11.6m to £Ir8.05m for 1980 was mainly the result of the international recession. Turnover went up from £Ir135.4m to £Ir154.0m.

Announcing a maintained dividend of 1.51p, the board says that the group's results were not *expected* to be up on last year. However, the recession deepened in the second *half with adverse effects* on nearly every member of the group.

The board decided to hold the dividend in view of the overall strength of the company and the possibility of an improvement in the present recessionary trend during 1981.

H. Woodward down for year

Although turnover of H. Woodward & Son rose from £11.28m to £11.97m, in the year to September 30, taxable profits dipped from £431,000 to £305,500. Earnings a share were 13.65p against 11.15p, and the dividend was held at 3.14p gross.

Group profits include an extraordinary item in respect of the surplus arising on members voluntary liquidation of a subsidiary amounting to £28,000 net of tax.

Tangent *purchase* from Airfix receiver

Tangent Industries, one of the United Kingdom's largest independent and privately owned printers and related service companies, has acquired certain assets and the business of the specialist Airfix subsidiary Benchmark Design from the company's official receivers for an undisclosed cash sum.

It is the first purchase of a former Airfix asset. It was a profitable division of that company when it was put into receivership last January.

Although Benchmark provided design consultancy for some Airfix subsidiaries, the majority of its £500,000 1980 turnover was as an outside consultant in interior, product and graphic design for clients such as Levi Strauss, Boots and Ryman.

Enserch to assist takeover inquiry

Ensearch has announced that it will cooperate fully with, and present its case to, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in connexion with the commission's investigations into its proposed takeover of Davy Corporation. Enserch announced on March 3 that its proposed offer for the whole of the issued ordinary share capital of Davy had lapsed automatically on the decision of the Secretary of State for Trade to refer the proposed merger to the commission.

By order of the United States Federal District Court of Washington, all proceedings in a suit filed by Davy against Enserch seeking to enjoin Enserch from making the proposed offer have been stayed.

Swedish issue is new type for London

The first ever tender issue on a yield basis in Britain is being *launched by Sweden.* It is a £50m loan stock running to 1986 available in bearer or registered form.

Half of each £100 unit is payable on application next Tuesday and half on April 22. The stock which runs to just under five years will be quoted as a short-term gilt on the Stock Exchange. Applicants will have to offer the interest rate they are prepared to accept for each loan unit. The issue is managed by Morgan Grenfell and S. G. Warburg.

Relyon dividend cut as profit slips to £1.5m

By Our Financial Staff

Pretax profits at Relyon, the bed and bedding maker, have fallen to £1.45m in the year to December, compared with £1.85m in the previous year, in line with forecasts at the interim stage. The final dividend payment has been cut from 5.35p gross last time to 4.2p gross. This makes a total payment for the year of 6.85p against 8.5p last year.

Sales fell to £11.81m, compared with £13.04m in 1979, and trading profits of £1.7m against £2.1m reflect the depressed trading conditions in the sector. Depreciation charges took £312,600 compared to £238,000, and interest rates took a similar amount at £20,500.

Wereldhave raises profits by 22pc

Net profits of Wereldhave, a Dutch property group with shares quoted in Amsterdam and London, pushed its net profits up over 22.5 per cent to 30.9m florins (£6m) in 1980. The dividend went up from 6.04 florins to 6.50 florins and after distributing this dividend the net asset value a share was 136.16 florins, against 123.66 florins.

The board says that during the year the group's investments in The Netherlands were reduced to 47 per cent of the total portfolio. In addition, some smaller Dutch properties and some investments in France were sold.

Additional investments were made in the United States and the group's total investment there is now 21 per cent.

International

During the year West World Holding, Inc, was set up. Wereldhave transferred its American investments to it on July 31, and other institutional and individual investors were given the opportunity of participating through this investment fund in large-scale commercial properties in the United States.

Wereldhave held a 61 per cent share in West World Holding, as at December 31. The results, assets and liabilities are consolidated proportionately in Wereldhave's annual accounts.

Seltrust profit tops $A4m

In the year to December 31 last, Seltrust Holdings' net profit reached $A4.1m (£2.15m.), compared with $A1.06m. for the first four months of its existence to December 31, 1979. Turnover rose from $A11.41m. to $A63.52m, while other income was up from $A728,000 to $A2.26m. As last time, no final dividend is being paid on the "A" ordinary shares, but a final of 8.75 cents is being paid on the "Z" ordinaries; the previous dividend, for the 10 months to June 30, was 13.12 cents on the fully paid and 6.56 cents on the partly paid units. All the "Z" stock is now fully paid.

Meanwhile, Seltrust, which is based in Perth, reports that *its Agnew nickel mine is still* beset by problems which have led to costs exceeding the value of production. The difficulties include dilution of ore and metallurgical problems.

Setrust noted that output from the Mount Newman mine was also hurt by a high level of industrial disruption and bad weather in the first half of the year.

The company paid no tax, as investment allowances to which it is entitled exceed the net profit.

Business appointments

Boardroom changes at Consolidated Gold Fields

Mr Anthony P. Hichens will join the board of **Consolidated Gold Fields** as managing director finance with effect from August. Mr David O. Lloyd-Jacob, present managing director finance, will resume full-time responsibility for the development of Gold Fields' interests in North America. Mr Peter D. Fells and Mr George R. J. Guise have been appointed executive directors of the company with effect from April 9.

Sir John Read, chairman of the TSB Group, has succeeded Mr L. C. Mather as chairman of **United Dominions Trust.**

Mr David Hurst has been appointed director, truck sales, for **Ford of Britain.**

Mr Michael Orr will join the board of **Grand Metropolitan** from June 1 as group finance director. Mr Clifford J. Smith will be appointed assistant group managing director on the same date.

Mr William Samengo-Turner, chairman and chief executive of **Armco Financial Services Europe,** has been appointed country manager with responsibility for Armco's operations in the United Kingdom.

Sir Jack Rampton has been appointed to the board of **London Atlantic Investment Trust.**

Mr Stephen B. Beaumont has been appointed a director of **Glengate Properties.**

Mr Ronald Ogle has been appointed to the board of **International Stores** with effect from March 31.

Mr Graham Carleton Greene has been appointed chairman of **The Statesman and National Publishing Co,** succeeding Mr Richard Hoggart, and has also been appointed chairman of **The Statesman Publishing Company,** succeeding Lord Campbell of Eskan.

Mr Laurie Jeavons has been appointed managing director of **Thorn Lighting (Fittings)** with effect from April 1. He will also join the board of Thorn Lighting.

Sir Richard Baker Wilbraham has been appointed a trustee of **the Grosvenor Estate.**

Mr Brian Oram and Mr Peter Archer have joined the board of **Lysander Estates,** the company engaged in the redevelopment of Surrey Docks.

Mr A. E. McCormack, formally assstant managing director of the rolled products division of the **British Aluminium Co,** has been appointed to the new post of director of primary metal sales. Mr H. R. Herrington, commercial director of the rolled products division, has been appointed sales director of the rolled products division with effect from April 1.

Mr Terry Stanley has joined the board of the **Declan Kelly Associates Group.** In addition, he has been appointed joint managing director of **Kelly Homes,** the house-building arm of the group.

Mr Christopher Latter has joined **Brown & Jackson** as group legal director.

Mr Michael Jones has been appointed steel division director, **Sandvik,** and joins the company's main board.

Mr Nigel Donaldson has been appointed sales director of **Thomson Directories.**

Mr David Small has been appointed assistant general manager, planning, at the **Woolwich Equitable Building Society.**

Dr Alfredo G. Mazza has been appointed by **Memorex** as vice president, international operations support.

Mr John G. Plackett has been appointed president of **Duracell Europe,** a division of **Duracell International Inc,** and managing director of *Duracell Batteries.* Mr Petar Schatz has been appointed vice-president of consumer and technical marketing for **Duracell Europe** and a director of **Duracell Batteries.**

Mr Malcolm Reynolds, senior partner of Reynolds Johnsen & Green, and a director of Alexander Howden Group, has been appointed a non-executive director of **Suter Electrical.**

MARKET REPORTS

Commodities

COPPER bars were barely steady; cathodes quiet. Afternoon.—Cash wire bars, £822.50-823.50 a metric ton; three months, £843.50-844.00. Sales, 7,050. Cash cathodes, £815-816.00; three months, £837-838.00. Sales, 2,250 tons. Morning.—Cash wire bars, £825-825.50; three months, £844.50-845.00. Settlement, £825.50. Sales, 10,700 tons. Cash cathodes, £819.50-820; three months, £835-836.00. Settlement, £820.00. Sales, 2,050 tons.

TIN.—Standard tin was quiet; high-grade tin was idle. Afternoon.—Standard cash, £6,050-6,075 a tonne; three months, £6,180-6,185. Sales, 165 tonnes. High grade, cash, £6,090-6,095; three months, £6,190-6,195. Sales, Nil tonnes. Morning.—Standard, cash, £6,120-6,130; three months, £6,190-6,200. Settlement, £6,130. Sales, 400 tonnes. High grade, cash, £6,120-6,130; three months, £6,190-6,200. Settlement, £6,130. Sales nil tonnes. Singapore tin ex-works was unchanged yesterday at 30.21 ringgit per kilo.

LEAD was easier.—Afternoon.—Cash, £320-321.00 per tonne; three months, £327-328. Sales, 5,000 tonnes. Morning.—Cash, £327-328; three months, £332-333.00. Settlement, £328.00. Sales, 5,525 tonnes.

ZINC was steady, but quiet.—Afternoon.—Cash, £340-341.00 per tonne; three months, £350.50-351.50. Sales, 1,600 tonnes. Morning.—Cash, £342-345.00; three months, £352.50-353.00. Settlement, £345.00. Sales, 2,975 tonnes.

PLATINUM was at £221.75 ($496.30) a troy ounce.

SILVER was barely steady.—Bullion market (fixing levels).—Spot, 558.45p per troy ounce (United States cents [illegible]); three months, 575.20p ([illegible]); six months, [illegible]; one year, 625.10p ([illegible]). London Metal Exchange.—Afternoon.—Cash, 551.5-552p; three months, [illegible]. Sales, 30 lots of 10,000 troy ounces each. Morning.—Cash, 561-561.5p; three months, 577.9-578p. Settlement, 561.5p. Sales, 55 lots.

ALUMINIUM was barely steady.—Afternoon.—Cash, £648-650.00 per tonne; three months, £660.50-661.50. Sales, 2,100 tonnes. Morning.—Cash, £653-653.50; three months, £664.50-665. Settlement, £653.50. Sales, 3,675 tonnes.

NICKEL was easier.—Afternoon.—Cash, £2,610-2,620 per tonne; three months, £2,715-2,720. Sales, 186 tonnes. Morning.—Cash, £2,630-2,635; three months, £2,715-2,720. Settlement, £2,635. Sales, 42 tonnes.

RUBBER was uncertain (pence per kilo).—April, 59.10-59.30; May, [illegible]; April-June, 60.20-60.60; July-Sept, 63.30-63.50; Oct-Dec, 66.80-67.00; Jan-March, 69.70-69.80; April-June, 72.60-72.70; July-Sept, 75.50-75.70; Oct-Dec, 78.10-78.20. Sales: One lot at five tonnes and 152 lots at 15 tonnes each.

RUBBER PHYSICALS were quiet.—(All pence per kilo): Spot, 59.00-59.25. Cifs: April, 62.00-62.50; May, 62.50-63.00.

COFFEE.—**ROBUSTAS** (£ per tonne): March, 1,061-63; May, 1,021-22; July, 1,050-52; Sept, 1,043-47; Nov, 1,038-41; Jan, 1,046-50; March, 1,030-35. Sales: 1,711 lots, including 45 options.

ARABICA (officials at 16.45): April, 140.00-45.00; June, 140.00-44.00; Aug, 135.00-40.00; Oct, 130.00-43.00; Dec, 130.00-42.00; Feb, 135.00-42.00; April, 137.00-42.00.

COCOA was slightly easier yesterday (£ per metric ton).—March, £831-82; May, 946-47; July, 965-66; Sept, 981-82; Dec, 1,006-07; March, 1,029-30; May, 1,047-48. Sales, 3,763 lots, including two options.

SUGAR.—The London daily price of "raws" was £13.00 lower at £226; the "whites" price was £7.00 lower at £260. Futures (£ per tonne): May, 232.25-33.00; Aug, 229.50-30.00; Oct, 226.50-27.00; Jan, 214.75-15.00; March, 214.45-15.00; May, 214.40-15.50; Aug, 214.60-15.50. Sales: 7,500 lots. Closing tonnes: Steady. ISA prices (March 13): daily, 20.94c; 15-day average, 22.19c.

SOYABEAN MEAL was quiet (£ per tonne): April, 124.50-23.80; June, 125.80-25.90; Aug, 128.00-28.90; Oct, 130.90-30.50; Dec, 130.00-32.50; Feb, 131.00-31.00; April, 131.00-36.00. Sales: 60 lots.

WOOL.—NZ Crossbreds, No 2 contract, cents per kilo (quiet).—March, 355-355; May, 359-60; Aug, 361-65; Oct, 368-71; Dec, 375-77; Jan, 376-78; March, 379-80; May, 382-85; Aug, 384-88. Sales, 18 lots.

GRAIN (The Baltic).—**WHEAT**.—Canadian western red spring, unquoted. US dark northern spring, No 2, 14 per cent: unquoted. US hard winter, 13½ per cent: March, £105.25; April £105.50 trans-shipment east coast sellers. EEC, unquoted. English feed, fob: April, £116 east coast seller.

MAIZE.—US.—French March-April, £125.50 trans-shipment east coast sellers. S African white, unquoted. S African yellow: March-April, £87.00 seller.

BARLEY.—English feed, fob: April, £103; May, £103.75; May-June, £105.50 sellers east coast. All per tonne cif UK unless stated.

London Grain Futures Market (Gafta). EEC origin.—**BARLEY** was quiet.—March, £97.30; May, £99.55; Sept, £93.35; Nov, £98.05; Jan, £101.85. Sales: 105 lots. **WHEAT** was quiet.—March, £110.70; May, £112.85; July, Jan, £106.85. Sales: 135 lots.

Home-Grown Cereals Authority.—Location ex-farm spot prices:

	milling WHEAT	Feed WHEAT	Feed BARLEY
Eastern	£111.00	£109.60	—
E Midlands	£111.20	£110.10	£98.70
N East		£110.00	£98.00
Scotland	—	—	£95.00

MEAT COMMISSION: Average fatstock prices at representative markets on March 16.—GB: Cattle 89.21p per kg LW (−0.20). UK: Sheep, 172.24p per kg EST DCW (+4.90). GB: Pigs 71.12p per kg LW (−0.15). England and Wales: Cattle numbers down 10.3 per cent, average price 89.52p (−0.46). Sheep numbers down 9.8 per cent, average price 174.49p (+4.55). Pig numbers up 1.7 per cent, average price 71.15p (−0.17). Scotland: Cattle numbers down 18.6 per cent, average price 87.74p (+0.20). Sheep numbers down 1.3 per cent, average price 166.20p (+7.24). Pig numbers down 15.9 per cent, average price 68.25p (+0.55).

POTATOES (Gafta).—April, £59.90; Nov, £57.60; Feb, £67.00. Sales: 10 lots of 40 tonnes each.

LONDON TEA.—A fair demand prevailed at this week's London Tea Auction.

Auction, medium and most dusts 2p to 5p per kilo dearer. There was an improved market for Bangladesh tea and coloury lines put on 2p to 5p per kilo.

East Africans opened dearer, particularly brighter types, but closed easier, apart from brokens which were strong throughout.

Plainer African CTC also lost ground, as did the relatively small quantity of Mozambique orthodox invoices on offer.

There was continuing strong demand for Ceylon. Brighter liquoring descriptions were irregularly dearer and other sorts fully firm.

South Indian sold at fully firm rates. There were 49,660 packages on offer.—Reuter.

World rubber consumption

The International Rubber Study Group said its estimate of total 1980 world rubber consumption shows a fall from the previous year for the first time since 1975.

The group estimated total 1980 consumption was some 12.55m tonnes (of which 3.88m was natural rubber and 8.68m synthetic) against 1979's 12.92m (3.87m natural and 9.05m synthetic).

LME stocks

Stocks in London Metal Exchange official warehouses at the end of last week (all in tonnes except silver, which is in troy ounces): Copper rose 1,375 to 119,975; Tin fell 605 to 6,025; Lead fell 4,750 to 55,925; Zinc fell 1,875 to 90,450; Aluminium fell 575 to 45,475; Nickel fell 156 to 4,002; Silver unchanged at 24.17m.

Discount market

The Bank of England had to give help on an exceptionally large scale to the discount houses yesterday. This assistance may have totalled more than £800m. It proved more than sufficient to eliminate the shortage and rates that had been jammed unrewardingly on 12 per cent for the greater part of the session eventually came easier at the tail end of the day. They closed between 10 and 12 per cent.

Foreign exchange report

The dollar lost ground on all fronts in slow currency trading yesterday.

Lower United States prime rates and Eurodollars prompted some selling of dollars on the view that United States interest rates generally are set to fall yet farther.

Sterling finished the day with a gain of 195 points in terms of the dollar, rising from $2.2185 to $2.2380. At best, the pound reached $2.2440.

The "effective" exchange rate made steady progress from 99.0 at the opening to 99.4 at midday—and then to 99.5 at the close, a gain of 0.4 on the day.

Among the Continentals to gain ground at the expense of the dollar were the German mark, from 2.1105 to 2.0915, the Swiss franc, from 1.9270 to 1.8990 and the French franc, from 4.9780 to 4.9315.

The Japanese yen rose from 207.45 to 207.05 against the dollar after easing at first on [illegible] of a reduction of as much as one point in Japan's discount rate.

Sterling: Spot and Forward

	Market rates (day's range) March 16	Market rates (close) March 16	1 month	3 months
New York	$2.2150-2440	$2.2375-2385	.37-.47c disc	1.03-1.13c disc
Montreal	$2.6470-6740	$2.6640-6650	.95-1.05c disc	2.30-2.45c disc
Amsterdam	5.17-21fl	5.18-19fl	1½-½c prem	3½-2¾c prem
Brussels	76.50-77.10f	76.60-70f	par-10c disc	8-18c disc
Copenhagen	14.70-76k	14.70½-71½k	20ore prem-120ore disc	315-475ore disc
Dublin	1.2600-2880p	1.2810-2820p	5-15p disc	40-50p disc
Frankfurt	4.67-70½m	4.67½-68½m	1pf prem-par	2-1pf prem
Lisbon	125.00-126.75e	126.00-20e	20c prem-50c disc	35c prem-150c disc
Madrid	190.25-191.50p	190.55-75p	5c prem-35c disc	95-140c disc
Milan	2271-88lr	2279-81lr	9½-11½lr disc	28½-31½lr disc
Oslo	11.95-12.05k	12.02½-03½k	125-10ore prem	225-100ore prem
Paris	11.02-09f	11.04-05f	2½-1½c prem	2½-1½c prem
Stockholm	10.24-31k	10.27½-28½k	370-440ore disc	1070-1150ore disc
Tokyo	459-66y	463½-64½y	235-190y prem	585-535y prem
Vienna	33.05-25sch	33.10-15sch	10-5gro prem	15-5gro prem
Zurich	4.24½-28½f	4.25½-26½f	2½-1½c prem	4½-3½c prem

Effective exchange rate compared to 1975, was up 0.4 at 99.5.



Other Markets

Australia	1.9160-1.9310
Bahrein	0.8405-0.8435
Finland	9.0790-9.1190
Greece	113.30-115.30
Hongkong	11.8140-11.8540
Iran	Not available
Kuwait	0.6105-0.6135
Malaysia	5.0495-5.0795
Mexico	52.05-53.55
New Zealand	2.41-2.43
Saudi Arabia	7.4725-7.5025
Singapore	[illegible]-4.7105
South Africa	1.7205-1.7755

Indices

	Bank of England Index	Morgan Guaranty Changes %
Sterling	89.5	−26.8
US dollar	99.3	−4.6
Canadian dollar	85.2	−17.9
Schilling	[illegible]	+22.0
Belgian franc	107.9	[illegible]
Danish kroner	89.8	−10.3
Deutsche mark	121.1	+40.7
Swiss franc	135.8	+76.2
Guilder	112.6	+15.5
French franc	86.9	−9.4
Lira	61.0	−53.9
Yen	146.4	+42.3

Based on trade weighted changes from Washington agreement December, 1971. (Bank of England Index 100).

Dollar Spot Rates

* Ireland	1.7435-1.7455
† Canada	1.1900-1.1903
Netherlands	2.3125-2.3145
Belgium	34.24-34.27
Denmark	6.5700-6.5750
West Germany	2.0910-2.0920
Portugal	56.40-56.50
Spain	85.20-85.30
Italy	1018-1019
Norway	5.3770-5.3820
France	4.9320-4.9340
Sweden	4.5925-4.5950
Japan	206.95-207.15
Austria	14.80-14.82
Switzerland	1.9000-1.9020

* Ireland quoted in US currency. † Canada $1 : US $0.8400-0.8403

EMS Currency Rates

	ECU central rates	currency against ECU	% change from central rate†	% change adjusted†*	divergence limit % plus/minus
Belgian franc	39.7897	41.6634	+4.71	+1.22	1.53
Danish krone	7.7236	7.98659	+3.43	−0.06	1.64
German D-mark	2.48209	2.54215	+2.42	−1.07	1.125
French franc	5.84700	5.99432	+2.52	−0.97	1.3557
Dutch guilder	2.74362	2.81512	+2.61	−0.88	1.512
Irish punt	0.668201	0.696914	+4.30	+0.81	1.663
Italian lira	1157.79	1235.951	+6.75	+3.26	4.08

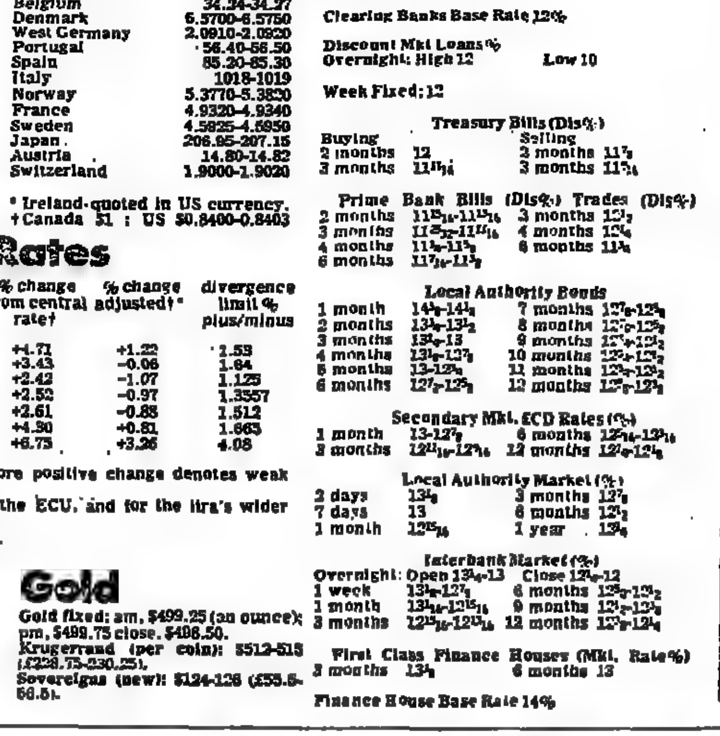
† changes are for the ECU therefore positive change denotes weak currency.
* adjusted for sterling's weight in the ECU, and for the lira's wider divergence limits.
Adjustment calculated by The Times.

Euro-$ Deposits

(%) calls, 14-15; seven days, 14¼-14½; one month, 14¾-14⅞; three months, 14½-14¾; six months, 14⅝-14⅞.

Gold

Gold fixed: am, $499.25 (an ounce); pm, $499.75 close, $498.50.
Krugerrand (per coin): $512-515 (£228.75-230.25).
Sovereigns (new): $124-126 (£55.5-56.5).



Money Market Rates

Bank of England MLR 12%

(Last changed 10/3/81)

Clearing Banks Base Rate 12%

Discount Mkt Loans %
Overnight: High 12 Low 10

Week Fixed: 12

Treasury Bills (Dis%)

Buying		Selling	
2 months	12	2 months	11⅞
3 months	11$\frac{15}{16}$	3 months	11$\frac{13}{16}$

Prime Bank Bills (Dis%) Trades (Dis%)

2 months	11$\frac{15}{16}$-11$\frac{13}{16}$	3 months	12½
3 months	11$\frac{25}{32}$-11$\frac{11}{16}$	4 months	12¼
4 months	11⅝-11⅜	6 months	11¾
6 months	11$\frac{7}{16}$-11⅜		

Local Authority Bonds

1 month	14⅜-14⅛	7 months	12⅞-12⅝
2 months	13¾-13½	8 months	12⅞-12⅝
3 months	13¼-13	9 months	12¾-12½
4 months	13⅛-12⅞	10 months	12¾-12½
5 months	13-12¾	11 months	12¾-12½
6 months	12⅞-12⅝	12 months	12⅞-12⅝

Secondary Mkt. ECD Rates (%)

1 month	13-12⅞	6 months	12$\frac{9}{16}$-12$\frac{7}{16}$
3 months	12$\frac{11}{16}$-12$\frac{9}{16}$	12 months	12⅞-12¾

Local Authority Market (%)

2 days	13⅛	3 months	12⅞
7 days	13	6 months	12½
1 month	12$\frac{15}{16}$	1 year	13¼

Interbank Market (%)

Overnight: Open 13¼-13 Close 12¼-12

1 week	13⅛-12⅞	6 months	12⅝-12½
1 month	13$\frac{1}{16}$-12$\frac{15}{16}$	9 months	12⅞-12⅝
3 months	12$\frac{15}{16}$-12$\frac{13}{16}$	12 months	12⅞-12⅝

First Class Finance Houses (Mkt. Rate%)

3 months 13⅛ 6 months 13

Finance House Base Rate 14%

Wall Street

New York, March 16.—The stock market pushed sharply higher in active trading helped by a continuing downward trend in interest rates and a rash of short-covering.

Two more major banks cut their prime rates to 17½ per cent from 18 per cent, joining Chemical Bank which moved to 17½ per cent last Friday. The Bank of New York cut its broker loan rate to 16 per cent from 16½ per cent.

The Dow Jones industrial average climbed 17.02 points, touching 1,002.79 level, its first close over 1,000 since January 6. Advances led declines two to one as turnover slowed to 50,000,000 shares from 68,290,000 shares on Friday.

Blue chip, high technology, steel, precious metals, food, paper, retail and some oil stocks joined the advance but natural resource issues retreated.

Volume leader Kennecott lost 1½ to 52½, St Joe Minerals 2½ to 45½ and Amax Inc 3½ to 55.

Sohio lost ½ to 51½ and Seagram ½ to 53½ but Socal rose ¾ to 42¾. Asarco fell ⅞ to 42¾, Phelps Dodge ½ to 42½ and Newmont Mining 1⅞ to 55⅞.

LTV Corp will raise stainless and cold rolled steel prices 10 per cent from April 1. LTV added 1½ to 23½, US Steel 1⅞ to 32 and Bethlehem Steel 1⅜ to 30⅛.

Among blue chips, General Motors gained ⅞ to 51⅞. General Gulf Oil slipped ⅛ to 36⅝. It will buy Kemmerer Coal Co from privately-held Kemmerer Corp for $325m. Conoco lost ¼ to 55¾. It will swop some coal land for some oil shale properties of Standard Oil of California.



	Mar 16	Mar 13
Allied Chem	56½	55¾
Allied Stores	24	23½
Allis Chalmers	30½	30
Alcoa	35	34¾
Amax Inc	55	58¼
Amerada Hess	36¾	37
Am Airlines	15¼	15⅞
Am Brands	73¾	73½
Am Broadcast	29¾	30
Am Can	28¾	29¼
Am Cyanamid	31⅞	30½
Am Elec Power	16½	16⅞
Am Home	32½	32
Am Motors	4⅞	4⅝
Am Nat Res	42⅞	40⅞
Am Standard	36⅞	38
Am Telephone	52	51¾
AMF Inc	29⅞	29½
Armco Steel	41	40⅝
Asarco	42¾	43⅝
Ashland Oil	35⅞	35¾
Atlantic Richfield	56¾	56⅜
Avco	28½	28⅞
Avon Products	38⅝	37⅞
Bankers Tst NY	31	31
Bank of America	28⅛	27⅝
Bank of NY	37¼	35⅞
Beatrice Foods	20¼	19⅞
Bendix	61½	59¼
Bethlehem Steel	30⅛	29⅝
Boeing	35¼	34
Boise Cascade	40⅞	39¾
Borden	28⅞	27⅞
Borg Warner	41½	41
Bristol Myers	55	54⅝
BP	36⅜	36⅞
Burlington Ind	20⅛	20⅜
Burlington Nthn	68⅞	63¾
Burroughs	52⅜	49⅞
Campbell Soup	32⅞	33½
Canadian Pacific	38¼	38
Caterpillar	67⅞	64
Celanese	65	65¾
Central Soya	14⅛	14⅞
Chase Manhat	46⅞	[illegible]
Chem Bank NY	52¾	51½
Chrysler	5⅝	5½
Citicorp	23¼	22⅞
Cities Service	50	49½
Clark Equip	36⅞	36¼
Coca Cola	37	37⅝
Colgate	16⅝	16⅝
CBS	57	57
Columbia Gas	38⅞	38⅞
Combustion Eng	43¼	42⅝
Comwlth Edison	19	18⅝
Conoco	55¾	56
Cons Edison	25⅜	25⅞
Cons Foods	29⅛	29⅝
Cons Power	17⅞	17⅛
Continental Grp	37¼	38⅞
Control Data	65¼	63¼
Corning Glass	69⅞	66⅛
CPC Intnl	67	65⅝
Crane	43⅞	43⅞
Crocker Int	39⅝	38⅝
Crown Zeller	50½	50
Dart & Kraft	46¼	45
Deere	44½	44½
Delta Air	71	70
Detroit Edison	11⅞	11⅞
Disney	58⅜	59
Dow Chemical	37⅞	37⅞
Dresser Ind	49¼	47⅞
Duke Power	18	17⅞
Du Pont	51⅞	50½
Eastern Air	9½	9¼
Eastman Kodak	81⅞	80⅜
Eaton Corp	34	34¼
El Paso Nat Gas	23⅞	23⅞
Equitable Life	10⅝	10¼
Esmark	64¼	61⅝
Evans P. D.	20⅞	20⅛
Exxon Corp	71⅞	70⅛
Fed Dept Stores	35⅞	35⅛
Firestone	11⅝	11½
Fst Chicago	15⅜	15⅞
Fst Nat Boston	37⅞	37⅞
Fst Penn Corp	4⅛	4⅛
Ford	23½	22⅞
GAF Corp	13	12⅞
Gen Dynamics	34½	34⅞
Gen Electric	68½	67
Gen Foods	34	34
Gen Mills	34⅞	33½
Gen Motors	51⅞	50¼
Gen Pub Util NY	4⅝	4½
Gen Tel Elec	26⅝	26⅝
Gen Tire	25	24¼
Genesco	6⅛	6⅞
Georgia Pacific	31⅛	30⅛
Getty Oil	74½	73⅝
Gillette	30⅜	29⅞
Goodrich	27⅞	27
Goodyear	18⅝	18½
Gould Inc	27⅝	26⅞
Grace	51¼	51¼
Gt Atlic & Pacific	5½	5⅝
Greyhound	17¼	17½
Grumman Corp	27⅞	27
Gulf Oil	36⅝	36¾
Gulf & West	16	15⅞
Heinz H. J.	55	56
Hercules	25⅛	25
Honeywell	105½	101½
IC Inds	29½	30¼
Ingersoll	77	73⅝
Inland Steel	35	34⅞
IBM	64⅞	63⅞
Int Harvester	19¼	19⅞
INCO	22⅛	21½
Int Paper	49¼	49⅝
Int Tel Tel	31⅞	30⅜
Irving Bank	48	47⅞
Jewel Co	37¼	37⅞
Jim Walter	29⅝	26⅞
Johns-Manville	24⅛	22⅞
Johnson & John	104¼	103¼
Kaiser Alumin	24⅞	25¼
Kennecott	52⅞	54¼
Kerr McGee	76⅝	78
Kimberly Clark	65⅞	66
K Mart	19¼	19⅛
Kroger	26⅜	26½
L.T.V. Corp	23½	22⅛
Litton	70⅛	68⅞
Lockheed	29⅛	26
Lucky Stores	16⅛	16⅛
Manuf Hanover	33¼	32⅞
Mapco	40½	39⅞
Marathon Oil	57	56
Marine Midland	17⅛	17⅛
Martin Marietta	64⅛	64
McDonnell	43⅝	44
Mead	29½	29¼
Merck	85	85⅝
Minnesota Mng	62⅞	61
Mobil Oil	65½	63⅞
Monsanto	76⅛	76⅛
Morgan J. P.	52⅛	51⅛
Motorola	67⅞	65⅞
NCR Corp	65¼	64
NL Industries	67½	66
Nabisco	31⅞	31⅛
Nat Distillers	27⅞	27⅛
Nat Steel	29	28½
Norfolk West	44½	44½
NW Bancorp	30⅝	30⅞
Norton Simon	17⅛	16⅞
Occidental Pet	31⅞	31
Ogden	34	33⅞
Olin Corp	24	23⅞
Owens-Illinois	29¼	29½
Pacific Gas Elec	20⅛	20⅜
Pan Am	5	4⅞
Penney J. C.	28¼	27⅞
Pennzoil	43½	42¾
Pepsico	34¼	34⅞
Pfizer	53	53¼
Phelps Dodge	42½	41⅞
Philip Morris	50	49⅝
Phillips Petrol	49⅜	48
Polaroid	27⅞	27½
PPG Ind	49⅝	50
Proctor Gamble	74¾	74
Pub Ser El & Gas	18¾	18¾
Rapid American	22½	22½
Raytheon	94½	93½
RCA Corp	26	26⅛
Republic Steel	29¼	29⅞
Reynolds Ind	44¼	44
Reynolds Metal	36⅛	36¼
Rockwell Int	36⅛	36
Royal Dutch	41⅞	42
Safeways	36⅞	37¼
St Regis Paper	40⅞	40½
Santa Fe Ind	93⅛	91
SCM	26⅝	26⅛
Schlumberger	102	100
Scott Paper	27⅛	27⅛
Seagram	54⅞	54⅞
Sears Roebuck	17½	17⅛
Shell Oil	46	45⅞
Shell Trans	35½	36
Signal Co	30	29¼
Singer	16¼	16⅞
Sony	17¼	17⅛
Sth Cal Edison	25⅛	25
Southern Pacific	42	42½
Southern Rly	57⅛	55½
Sperry Corp	57½	55⅞
Std Brands	27¼	27⅛
Std Oil Califnia	42¾	41⅞
Std Oil Indiana	69⅞	66⅛
Std Oil Ohio	51½	52
Sterling Drug	23	23⅞
Stevens J. P.	13⅞	13⅛
Sunbeam Corp	19¼	19½
Sun Comp	40¼	41⅛
Teledyne	200⅞	193⅞
Tenneco	49⅛	47⅞
Texaco	38½	[illegible]
Texas East Corp	56	55¾
Texas Inst	114⅞	112⅞
Texas Utilities	17⅞	17¼
Textron	30⅞	30¼
TWA	22⅛	22⅛
Travelers Corp	47⅞	46⅛
TRW Inc	60⅜	59⅞
UAL Inc	25⅛	24⅞
Union Carbide	59⅛	58½
Union Oil Calif	40⅛	40
Un Pacific Corp	74½	73¼
Uniroyal	7⅛	7⅛
United Brands	14⅞	14⅞
US Industries	9⅞	10
US Steel	32⅞	31
Utd Technol	52⅛	51½
Wachovia	32⅛	32⅛
Warner Lambert	21¼	20⅛
Wells Fargo	26⅞	27
West'n Bancorp	37½	37⅛
Westinghse Elec	31	30⅜
Weyerhauser	38	36⅞
Whirlpool	24⅞	24½
White Motor	[illegible]	[illegible]
Woolworth	25⅛	24½
Xerox Corp	56⅝	56⅛
Zenith	16⅞	16⅛

Canadian Prices

	Mar 16	Mar 13
Abitibi	31⅛	32
Alcan Alumin	45	44⅝
Algoma Steel	45½	45½
Bell Telephone	19⅞	19⅛
Cominco	62	62⅛
Cons Bathurst	26⅞	26⅞
Gulf Oil	24⅛	24⅛
Hawker/Sid Can	24	24
Hudson Bay Min	34⅛	34⅛
Hudson Bay Oil	22⅞	21⅞
Imasco	35	34½
Imperial Oil	32⅞	32
Int Pipe	15	15
Mass.-Ferguson	4⅛	4⅛
Royal Trust	20⅜	19⅞
Seagram	65¼	65⅝
Steel Co	27⅛	27
Thomson N 'A'	22⅛	21½
Walker Hiram	26⅜	27⅛
WCT	14⅞	15

* Ex div. a Asked. c Ex distribution. h Bid. k Market closed. n New issue. p Stock split. t Traded. y Unquoted.

Foreign exchange.—Sterling, spot 2.2450 (2.2207); three months, 2.2560 (2.2342); Canadian dollar 1.1868 (1.1933).

The Dow Jones spot commodity index was 416.20 (413.63). The futures index was 426.82 (427.70).

The Dow Jones averages.—Industrials, 1,002.79 (985.77); transportation 387.13 (380.20); utilities, 109.53 (108.91); 65 stocks, 387.70 (381.[illegible]).

New York Stock Exchange Index, composite 77.19 (76.32); industrials 90.23 (89.[illegible]); transportation, 75.67 (77.37); utilities, [illegible] (37.07); financial, 73.31 (72.20).

US commodities

New York, March 16. **GOLD** at the Comex closed at $493.1 an ounce for March, up $7.00 on last Friday's close. March, $493.10; April, $495.00-$496.50; May, $501.00; June, $506.00-$507.00; Aug, $517.00-$519.00; Oct, $530.00; Dec, $544.00; Feb, $557.60; April, $565.40; June, $577.20; Aug, $589.10; Oct, $601.00; Dec, $613.00.

CHICAGO IMM GOLD: March, $490.00; April, $500.00; June, $508.00-$505.60; July, $517.50; Sept, $521.00-$526.00; Oct, $525.10; Dec, $542.00; Jan, $540.70; March, $558.00; April, $559.40.

SILVER at NY Comex closed at $12.34 an ounce for March up 24 cents an ounce on last Friday's close. March, [illegible]; April, 1,242.00c; May, 1,250.00c-1,260.00c; July, 1,288.00c; Sept, 1,321.50c; Dec, 1,[illegible]; Jan, 1,385.00c; March, 1,417.00c; May, 1,449.00c; July, 1,481.00c; Sept, 1,513.00c; Dec, 1,561.00c.

COPPER at NY Comex finished 0.65 to 0.60 cent lower on commission house selling with May selling at 84.10 cents, down 70 points a lb. March, 82.45c; April, 83.00c; May, 84.05-84.20c; July, 86.20c; Sept, 88.50c; Dec, 91.55c; Jan, 92.55c; March, 94.50c; May, 96.55c; July, 98.20c; Sept, 100.50c; Dec, 103.90c; Jan, 103.75c.

COTTON futures posted pared losses, with spot May closing at 85.65 cents, down 1.70 cents on Friday's close. May, 85.60c-85.70c; July, 86.50c-86.60c; Oct, 85.20c-85.25c; Dec, 83.25c-83.30c; March, 83.90c-84.00c; May, 84.40c-84.75c; July, 84.90c-85.00c.

COFFEE futures closed an extremely quiet session with pared gains of 0.26 to 0.40 cent in all active positions except September, which lost 0.11 cent. March 119.85c; May, 120.90c-121.10c; July, 122.40c; Sept, 124.10c-124.20c; Dec, 123.20c; March, 123.50c; May, 122.49c-122.50c; July, 122.00c-122.50c.

COCOA futures benefited from late commission house and local buying to close mostly higher with May contract at $2,070, up $19 a ton. March, $2,040; May, $2,070; July, $2,115; Sept, $2,150; Dec, $2,205; March, $2,257; May, $2,300.

SUGAR No 11 closed at 21.55 cents a lb for May, up 0.55 cent on last Friday's close. May, 21.50c-21.60c; July, 21.50c-21.55c; Sept, 21.25c-21.30c; Oct, 21.15c-21.20c; Jan, 19.85c-20.04c; March, 19.95c-20.05c; May, 20.15c-20.25c; July, 20.30c-20.40c.

CHICAGO SOYABEANS ended mixed, down ¼ cent a bushel in old crop to up four cents in new crop. March, 741c-734c; May, 760c-744c; July, 782c-767c; Aug, 789½c-776c; Sept, 796½c-785c; Nov, 816c-799c; Jan, 832c-819c; March, 852c-839½c.

SOYABEAN OIL settled 0.03 to 0.20 cent a lb lower. March, 23.65c-23.70c; May, 24.20c-24.25c; July, 25.00c-[illegible]; Aug, [illegible]; Sept, [illegible]; Oct, 25.70c; Dec, [illegible]; Jan, 26.50c; March, 27.05c-27.15c; May, 27.55c-27.65c. **SOYABEAN MEAL** futures ended $0.50 to $2.00 higher. March, $200.50-$201.00; May, $211.20-$211.50; July, $221.[illegible]; Aug, $225.00; Sept, $227.50; Oct, $229.00; Dec, $233.50-$233.90; Jan, $235.00; March, $239.00-$241.00.

CHICAGO GRAINS.—**WHEAT** futures were [illegible].—March, [illegible]; May, [illegible]; July, [illegible]; Sept, [illegible]; Dec, 477½-467c; March, [illegible]. **MAIZE** was [illegible].—March, 350½-[illegible]; May, [illegible]; July, 360-365½c; Sept, [illegible]; Dec, 371½-356c; March, [illegible]. **OATS** futures fared mixed.—March, 227-221½c; May, 217-212½c; July, 211½-209c; Sept, 209½-207c; Dec, 214-210½c.

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

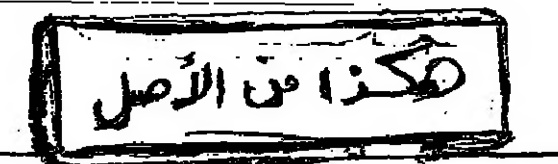
1980/81 High Bid	Low Offer	Trust	Bid	Offer	Yield
		Authorized Unit Trusts			
		Abbey Unit Trust Managers. 72-80 Gatehouse Rd, Aylesbury, Bucks 0296-5941			
62.1	47.1	American Grwth	59.9	63.4	2.29
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		Charities Official Investment Fund. 77 London Wall, London, EC2 01-588 1815			
		Lloyds Bank Unit Trust Managers. Goring-by-Sea, Worthing, W Sussex. 01-623 1288			
71.1	56.9	Balanced	68.1	73.2	4.80
106.2	81.2	Do Accum	103.1	110.9	4.80
50.0	50.0	Energy Int	46.4	50.0	2.00
50.0	50.0	Do Accum	46.4	50.0	2.00
		Scottish Securities Ltd.			
50.7	39.3	Scotbits	48.3	51.9	4.44
63.1	50.4	Scotshares	60.1	66.1	4.76
54.5	47.0	Scotyields	50.6	54.60	8.79
		Schroder Unit Trust Manager Ltd. 25 St Martins Lane, WC2N 4EF. 0705 27733			
95.8	100.0	Money Pen	95.5	101.0	..
97.1	100.0	High Yld Pen	97.1	102.3	..
121.9	84.7	AMEV/Fram Am	120.1	126.6	..
115.9	95.9	Do Income	112.7	118.8	..
139.2	96.7	Do Intl Gr'th	136.1	143.3	..
121.2	100.0	Do Capital	119.0	126.3	..
		Irish Life Assurance. 11 Finsbury Sq, London, EC2. 01-628 8253			
245.4	226.1	Prop Modules	230.2	242.4	..
295.5	259.4	Do Growth (31)	274.4	288.8	..
134.0	124.2	Do Series 2	128.6	135.3	..
150.2	135.0	Exempt Managed	143.7	151.3	..
		Prudential Pensions Ltd. Holborn Bars, EC1N 2NH. 01-405 9222			
36.10	28.98	Equity	£35.24	34.33	..
24.00	20.30	Fixed Int	£23.84	24.18	..
42.43	35.90	Property	£42.43	43.74	..
		Reliance Mutual Insurance Society Ltd.			
		Vanbrugh Life Assurance Ltd. 41-43 Maddox St, London, W1R 9LA. 01-499 4923			
198.1	167.9	Managed Fund	193.0	203.5	..
336.6	259.4	Do Equity	320.7	337.6	..
194.2	173.3	Do Fixed Int	190.7	201.1	..
206.2	167.2	Do Property	206.2	217.2	..
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Offshore and International Funds

[illegible]

Insurance Bonds and Funds

[illegible]



Stock Exchange Prices

Selective buying in electricals

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, March 16. Dealings End, March 27. § Contango Day, March 30. Settlement Day, April 6

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BRITISH FUNDS

1980/81 High	Low	Stock			Price	Ch'ge	Int. only Yield	Gross Red. Yield
SHORTS								
99	91	Exch	[illegible]	1981	99	..	8.333	12.370
[illegible]	91	Exch	[illegible]	1981	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.590	12.045
[illegible]	85½	Exch	3%	1981	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.105	11.232
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exch	[illegible]	1981	[illegible]	..	12.702	12.104
[illegible]	88	Treas	[illegible]	1980-82	[illegible]	..	8.740	[illegible]
[illegible]	81[illegible]	Treas	3%	1982	[illegible]	..	3.162	8.362
[illegible]	89½	Treas	14%	1982	102[illegible]	..	13.739	11.606
[illegible]	85[illegible]	Treas	[illegible]	1982	[illegible]	[illegible]	8.616	11.881
96	85[illegible]	Exch	[illegible]	1982	95[illegible]	•[illegible]	9.661	12.385
[illegible]	84[illegible]	Exch	[illegible]	1983	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.235	12.060
[illegible]	76½	Exch	3%	1983	89[illegible]	..	3.355	9.278
[illegible]	85[illegible]	Treas.	12%	1983	99[illegible]	[illegible]	12.090	12.432
94	84[illegible]	Treas	[illegible]	1983	94	[illegible]	9.640	12.366
102[illegible]	94[illegible]	Exch	[illegible]	1983	101[illegible]	[illegible]	13.252	12.636
94	84[illegible]	Exch	10%	1983	94	[illegible]	10.638	12.645
87[illegible]	76[illegible]	Fund	[illegible]	1982-84	87	..	6.323	10.949
97[illegible]	86[illegible]	Exch	11[illegible]	1984	96[illegible]	[illegible]	11.626	12.605
104[illegible]	94½	Exch	14%	1984	103[illegible]	[illegible]	13.568	12.739
80½	68[illegible]	Exch	3%	1984	80½	..	3.727	10.179
[illegible]	88	Treas	[illegible]	1984	[illegible]	•[illegible]	12.197	12.563
109[illegible]	97[illegible]	Treas	15%	1985	107½	[illegible]	13.954	12.514
75[illegible]	68[illegible]	Treas	3%	1985	75[illegible]	[illegible]	3.980	10.418
MEDIUMS								
103[illegible]	89½	Exch	12[illegible]	1985	98[illegible]	[illegible]	12.428	12.651
97[illegible]	93½	Exch	11[illegible]	1986	96[illegible]	[illegible]	12.162	12.663
69[illegible]	69½	Treas	3%	1986	69[illegible]	[illegible]	4.308	10.617
89[illegible]	78[illegible]	Treas	[illegible]	1984-86	87[illegible]	[illegible]	9.877	12.137
105[illegible]	90[illegible]	Exch	13[illegible]	1987	103[illegible]	[illegible]	13.096	12.935
81½	70[illegible]	Fund	[illegible]	1985-87	81½	[illegible]	8.220	11.338
99[illegible]	91[illegible]	Treas	12%	1987	99[illegible]	[illegible]	12.675	13.228
83	71[illegible]	Treas	[illegible]	1985-88	80[illegible]	[illegible]	9.772	12.305
65[illegible]	54[illegible]	Trans	3%	1978-88	64[illegible]	[illegible]	4.669	10.033
98	82[illegible]	Treas	11½%	1989	91[illegible]	[illegible]	12.636	13.378
66[illegible]	57[illegible]	Treas	5%	1986-89	65	• ..	7.649	11.443
104[illegible]	89[illegible]	Treas	13%	1990	100[illegible]	[illegible]	13.261	13.393
82	69½	Treas	[illegible]	1987-90	79[illegible]	[illegible]	10.623	12.871
[illegible]	81[illegible]	Treas	11[illegible]	1991	91[illegible]	[illegible]	13.134	13.732
68	57½	Fund	[illegible]	1987-91	64[illegible]	•[illegible]	8.909	11.893
92[illegible]	77[illegible]	Exch	11%	1991	89[illegible]	[illegible]	12.895	13.662

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

DOLLAR STOCKS

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

A — B

C — E

F — H

I — L

M — N

O — S

T — Z

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

SHIPPING

MINES

OIL

PROPERTY

RUBBER

TEA

1980/81 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
378	279	McLeod Russel	312	−3	21.4	6.9	..
332	263	Moran	270	..	4.6t	1.7	..
158	103	Surmah Valley	103	..	3.2	3.1	..
219	192¼	Warren Plant	209	..	14.3b	6.8	..

MISCELLANEOUS

1980/81 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
48	25	Calcutta Elec	28	..	6.8	24.2	..
34½	28½	Essex Wtr 3.5%	£32¾	..	500	15.3	..
27½	19	Gt Nthn Tele	£24	..	153	6.4	8.8
353	197	Imp Cont Gas	218	..	10.1	4.6	10.3
185	93	Milford Docks	110	+2	9.8	8.9	..
170	98	Nesco Inv	170	..	10.0	5.9	..
35	28½	Sunderlnd Wtr	£32½	..	500	15.4	..

• Ex dividend. a Ex all. b Forecast dividend. c Corrected price. e Interim payment passed. f Price at suspension. g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment. h Bid for company. k Pre-merger figures. n Forecast earnings. p Ex capital distribution. r Ex rights. s Ex scrip or share split. t Tax free. y Price adjusted for late dealings. .. No significant data.

RECENT ISSUES

	Closing Price
Bristol Water 8% Red Pref 1986 (†b)	£12
British Aerospace 50p Ord (150)	176+4
Cystic Fibrosis Res'ch Inv Tst £1 (£1)	115
Do 5% Deb 1986 (£100)	70
Espley-Tyas Prop Grp 25p Ord (75)	58
Exchequer 12% Cnv 1985 (†)	£98[illegible]
Exchequer 13½% 1990 (£95)	£15[illegible]
Exchequer 12¼% 'B' 1999 (†)	£17[illegible]
Lon Merchant Secs 7¾% Cnv Ln 2000-05	£38[illegible]
Mid-Sussex Water 8% Red Pref 1986 (†)	£102½
New Darien Oil Trust 25p Ord (100)	116
Oil and Gas Production 2c Ord (42)	39–1
Portals 9½% Cnv 1994-2000 (†)	£122[illegible]
Sutton District Wtr 8% Red Pref 1986 (†b)	£12¾
TR Energy 25p Ord (£1)	100
Treasury 12% 1986 (†h)	£51¼+[illegible]

RIGHTS ISSUES	Latest date of renun	
Broken Hill Props (473‡)	Apr 30	230 prem+5

Issue price in parentheses. * Ex dividend. ‡ Issued by tender. ¶ Nil paid. a £50 paid. b £20 paid. f Fully paid. g £40 paid. h £30 paid. i £15 paid.



Salerooms and Antiques





8 King Street, St James's
London SW1Y 6QT. Tel: 01-839 9060
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Tuesday, 17 March at 10 a.m.
ANCIENT COINS. Catalogue £1.25.

Tuesday, 17 March at 11 a.m.
FINE JAPANESE PRINTS, PAINTINGS AND SCREENS. Catalogue £2.

Wednesday, 18 March at 11 a.m.
IMPORTANT JEWELS. Catalogue £2.30.

Wednesday, 18 March at 11 a.m.
VALUABLE NATURAL HISTORY AND TRAVEL BOOKS, including a Fine Ornithological Collection. Catalogue £4.50.

Thursday, 19 March at 11 a.m.
LATE 18TH AND 19TH CENTURY CONTINENTAL DRAWINGS. Catalogue £2.80.

Thursday, 19 March at 11 a.m.
FINE CONTINENTAL FURNITURE AND TAPESTRIES. Catalogue £3.50.

Thursday, 19 March at 11 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.
FINEST AND RAREST WINES AND COLLECTORS' PIECES. Catalogue £1.30.

Friday, 20 March at 11 a.m.
IMPORTANT CONTINENTAL PICTURES OF THE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURIES AND PICTURES OF ISLAMIC INTEREST. Catalogue £6.

Monday, 23 March at 11.30 a.m.
MODERN SPORTING GUNS AND RIFLES, VINTAGE FIREARMS. Catalogue £1.30.

Tuesday, 24 March at 11 a.m.
IMPORTANT ENGLISH DRAWINGS AND WATERCOLOURS. Catalogue £5.

OVERSEAS SALES
IN ROME
AT THE PALAZZO MASSIMO LANCELLOTTI
Thursday, 19 March at 4 p.m. and 9 p.m.
PRINTED BOOKS, INCLUDING ART REFERENCE, TRAVEL AND ATLASES. Catalogue £2.
IN HOLLAND
AT ROKIN 86, AMSTERDAM
Thursday, 19 March at 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.
ASIATIC CERAMICS AND WORKS OF ART. Catalogue £3.

SUNDAY VIEW
Christie's King Street will be open on Sunday, 29 March, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., for a special view of the Twenty-Eight Works from the Edward James Collection, Impressionist and Modern Paintings, Drawings, Watercolours and Sculpture.

All catalogue prices are post paid.
All sales subject to the conditions printed in the catalogue.
For details of sales at Christie's South Kensington, please contact: 85 Old Brompton Road, London, S.W.7. Tel: (01) 581 2231.

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East Anglia: Henry Bowring. Tel: (0603) 614546
Cheltenham: Philip Leatham and Rupert de Zoete. Tel: (0242) 518999
Mid-Wales: Sir Andrew Duff Gordon, Bt. Tel: (0242) 518999
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Ireland: Desmond Fitz-Gerald, The Knight of Glin. Tel: (0001) 680585/693925
Northern Ireland: John Lewis-Crosby. Tel: (0396) 830574
Isle of Man: Quentin Agnew-Somerville. Tel: (0624) 813 724
Channel Islands: Richard de La Hey. Tel: (0534) 77582

Sotheby's

FOUNDED 1744

New Bond Street
Sotheby Parke Bernet & Co., 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1A 2AA Telephone: (01) 493 8080

Tuesday 17th March at 10.30 am
FINE CHINESE EXPORT PORCELAIN *Cat. (189 illus.) £6.50*
Tuesday 17th March at 11 am
PRINTED BOOKS *Cat. (2 illus.) £2*
Wednesday 18th March at 11 am
17th, 18th AND 19th CENTURY BRITISH PAINTINGS *Cat. (214 illus.) £10*
Wednesday 18th March at 11 am
JAPANESE SWORDS AND SWORD FITTINGS *Cat. (58 illus.) £2.50*
Wednesday 18th March at 2.30 pm
JAPANESE PRINTS AND ILLUSTRATED BOOKS, CHINESE AND JAPANESE DRAWINGS AND PAINTINGS *Cat. (30 illus.) £1.50*
Thursday 19th March at 10.30 am
JEWELS *Cat. (15 illus.) £1.50*
Thursday 19th March at 11 am
ENGLISH AND FOREIGN SILVER AND PLATE *Cat. £1.50*
Thursday 19th March at 2.30 pm
18th AND 19th CENTURY BRITISH WATERCOLOURS AND DRAWINGS *Cat. (181 illus.) £7*
Monday 23rd March at 10.30 am
BONDS AND OLD SECURITIES *Cat. (19 illus.) £1*
Monday 23rd March and following day at 11 am
AUTOGRAPH LETTERS, LITERARY MANUSCRIPTS AND HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS *Cat. £3.50*

Belgravia
Sotheby's Belgravia, 19 Motcomb Street, London SW1X 8LB Telephone: (01) 235 4311

Wednesday 18th March at 10.30 am at Belgravia, and Wednesday 25th March at 10 am and 2.30 pm at the Conduit Street Gallery, 26 Conduit Street, W1
FINE WINES, SPIRITS AND VINTAGE PORT *Cat. £1*
Thursday 19th March at 10.30 am
ART POTTERY AND STUDIO CERAMICS *Cat. (86 illus.) £1.25*
Friday 20th March at 11 am
CAMERAS, VIEWERS AND OPTICAL AMUSEMENTS *Cat. (35 illus.) 80p*
Monday 23rd March at 7 pm
HIGHLY IMPORTANT VICTORIAN PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS *Cat. (85 illus.) £10*
Tuesday 24th March at 11 am
FINE VICTORIAN PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS AND WATERCOLOURS *Cat. (338 illus.) £5*

Chancery Lane
115 Chancery Lane (Hodgson's Rooms), London WC2A 1PX Telephone: (01) 405 7238

Thursday 19th March at 1 pm
AMERICAN, BRITISH AND EUROPEAN CHILDREN'S BOOKS FROM THE 18th CENTURY TO THE PRESENT DAY *Cat. (75 illus.) £2*

Chester
Sotheby Beresford Adams, Booth Mansion, 28-30 Watergate Street, Chester CH1 2NA Telephone: (0244) 315531

Wednesday 25th March at 11.30 am
COLLECTORS' ITEMS INCLUDING TOYS, DOLLS, MODEL SHIPS, SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS, TEXTILES, MECHANICAL MUSIC, DOMESTIC AND OFFICE EQUIPMENT AND EPHEMERA *Illus. Cat. £1*
Friday 27th March at 11.30 am
EUROPEAN CERAMICS AND GLASS *Illus. Cat. £1.50*

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HIGHGATE, Village: luxury town house, fully furnished, 4 beds, 2 recept., k and b, 2nd wc; tel, ch, etc.: £175 pw: co let only. —Tel 889 2474.

(continued on page 24)

هكذا من الأصل

PERSONAL CHOICE



Violet Lawrence (played by Louie Ramsay) and Jack Ford (James Bolan) in tonight's episode of When the Boat Comes In (BBC 1 8.10).

● One of the foremost talents in American, indeed World, contemporary music is the singer/songwriter Stevie Wonder. Born thirty years ago as Steveland Judkins Morris in Saginaw, Michigan he is the subject of tonight's Omnibus (BBC 1 10.40) in which we gain an intimate insight into the life of a man who is constantly on the move devoted to his music and to the memory of Martin Luther King. Shortly after King's assassination there was a movement to make his birthday, January 15, a national holiday but that lost momentum and is now being revived by Stevie Wonder and we see him addressing a black sea of faces at this year's birthday rally in Washington. The programme does not dwell on his obviously sincere devotion to Dr King and for those viewers who want to see and hear him in concert they have the lion's share. Backstage he talks about his life-long blindness which he says does not hamper his enjoyment of life—indeed he thinks it is an advantage because he experiences inner visions and a sensitivity to create music. It is a neatly balanced film that will be of particular interest to lovers of his music.

● For viewers whose musical tastes do not encompass the work of Stevie Wonder there is a powerful biography of the late Ernest Bevin on ITV at the same time (A Turn-up in a Million, 10.30). Produced and directed by Peter Batty the documentary includes details of his first job as a horse and cart driver which he held until the dockers' strike of 1910. That gave him the opportunity to form a union for cart drivers which was his first step on his way up Trade Union hierarchy. In the programme many of his colleagues recall his sterling work, among them Jack Jones, Roy Jenkins and Lord George-Brown.

● Wynford Vaughan Thomas was, for four months in 1944, the BBC's correspondent on the Anzio beachhead, sending daily dispatches to London on the Allies attempts to break the deadlock in the Italian campaign. It is over thirty years since he has seen the sands of Anzio but he has returned there for Radio 4's Back to the Beach Head (7.50pm). In the programme he recalls his memories of the battle-scarred days of 1944 and his descriptions of present-day Anzio are contrasted with some of his war-time dispatches.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: † STEREO; ★BLACK AND WHITE; (r) REPEAT.

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Dear

TELEVISION

BBC 1

6.40 am Open University: Cell Structure; 7.05 Deep Sea Container Ports; 7.30 Beyond the Eye. Closedown at 7.55.
9.05 For Schools, Colleges: The news in French; 9.35 Maths; 9.57 Talkabout; 10.16 Look and Read; 10.38 Religious and Moral education; 11.00 Watch; 11.17 Television Club; 11.38 A personal view of The Winter's Tale from Stephen Spender; 12.05 pm A look at the drugs scene. Closedown at 12.30.
12.45 News
1.00 Pebble Mill at One. Deborah Kerr is interviewed and there is a progress report on the Fundecker appeal. In addition there is the weekly feature, Family Matters. 1.45 Pigeon Street. 2.00 You and Me.
2.14 For Schools, Colleges: German language; 2.40 Home economics. 3.00 Closedown.
3.20 Pobol y Cwm. Welsh serial. 3.55 Play School (shown earlier on BBC 2) 4.20 Secret Squirrel. Cartoon adventure entitled Not So Idle Idol 4.25 Jackanory. Ann Morrish reads the second part of Mary Cockett's story Shadow at Applegarth. 4.40 Isla and the Farm on the Hill. Isla St Clair discovers the jobs that are to be done on a Welsh hill farm during the Autumn (r). 5.05 John Craven's Newsround. Intelligently presented world news for young people. 5.10 Children of Fire Mountain. Adventure serial set in New Zealand at the turn of the century.
5.40 News read by Richard Baker. 5.55 Regional news. 6.20 Nationwide. **6.45 Rolf Harris Cartoon Time.** Two *cartoons featuring Tom and Jerry* and two starring Barney Bear. 7.15 Taxi. In this week's comedy episode about New York taxi drivers, Alex's former far blind date returns to his life a slim and sophisticated lady.
7.40 Seapower. *Admiral of the Fleet* the Lord Hill-Norton relates the history of the cruiser and its role in modern warfare.
8.10 When the Boat Comes In. Jack, to help his old friend Matt Headley, goes to Oxford to talk to a wayward student.
9.00 News read by Peter Woods.
9.25 Play: The Sin Bin by Tony Parker. A story of six life-sentence prisoners in an experimental self-rehabilitation unit. With help from a *psychiatrist, a psychologist* and a senior prison officer they try to find some insight into their problems. The cast includes Eric Porter and Kenneth Cranham.
10.40 Omnibus: Stevie Wonder — Inner Visions. An intimate portrait of one of the leaders of the contemporary music scene in the United States (see Personal Choice).
11.38 News headlines.
11.40 Platform One. Bob Wellings takes a look at the human side of the economic recession and talks to people who are closely affected. Tonight it is a small Midlands manufacturer of fishing books and equipment.
12.10 am News headlines.

Regions

BBC 1 VARIATIONS: Cymru/Wales: 11.38 am-12.03 pm Dechrau Siarad. 3.20-3.55 Closedown. 5.10-5.40 Bilidowcar 5.55-6.20 Wales Today 6.45-7.10 Heddiw. 7.10-7.40 Pobol Y Cwm. 12.00 News and weather. Scotland: 10.38 am-10.58 For Schools. 12.40 pm-12.45 The Scottish News. 3.20-3.55 Closedown. 5.55-6.20 Reporting Scotland. 6.45-7.15 Rolf Harris Cartoon Time. 10.40-11.10 Current Account. 11.10-12.06 am Omnibus: Stevie Wonder. 12.05 am News and weather. Northern Ireland: 10.38 am-10.58 For Schools. 3.20 pm-3.53 Closedown 3.53-3.55 Northern Ireland News. 5.55-6.20 Scene Around Six. 6.20-6.45 Rugby: The Schools' Cup Final. 6.45-7.15 Make Mine Country. 10.40-11.30 Light and Easy. 11.30-12.25 am Omnibus: Stevie Wonder. 12.25 News and weather England: 5.55 pm-6.20 Regional Magazines. 6.45-7.15 East: Focus. Another Little Drink. London and South-East: Rolf Harris Cartoon Time. Midlands: Look! Hear! North: Hometown: Beverley. North-East: Looks Natural: Raby Castle. North-West: Towards Tomorrow. South: The Getaways South-West. The Attic Archives. West: Day Out: Dorchester. 12.05 am Close.

BBC 2

6.40 am Open University: Reading Development. 7.05 Rocks and Magnets. 7.30 History of Mathematics. Closedown at 7.55.
10.00 Business World. The last of ten programmes for owners of small businesses (r). Closedown at 10.25.
11.00 Play School: The presenters are Sheelagh Gilbey and Johnny Ball. The story is The Well at World's End which is read by guest story-teller Felicity Hayes-McCoy.
11.25 Speak For Yourself. A repeat of Friday's programme in which English language students learnt how to cope with rudeness. Closedown at 11.50.
2.00 pm Racing from Cheltenham: Live coverage of four races from the first day of the *National Hunt* Festival. We see the 2.15, 2.50, 3.30 and 4.05 races. The programme is introduced by Julian Wilson and the commentators are Peter O'Sullevan and Richard Pitman.
4.50 Open University: Flight Failures. 5.15 Odilon Redon.
5.40 King of the Rocket Men:* Part nine of an early science fiction adventure: Ten Seconds to Live. 5.55 Maggie. The last episode in the series based on the Maggie books by Joan Lingard. 6.20 The US Grand Prix West: Highlights of the first World Championship race of the season from Long Beach, California. *The commentators are* Murray Walker and James Hunt.
6.55 News: With a sub-titled synopsis for the hard-of-hearing.
7.05 One Hundred Great Paintings: The first picture on the new theme of The Elements is Waves at Natsushine by Sotatsu which hangs at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC. The painting is discussed by Penelope Mason.
7.15 Film: Rio Grande* (1950) starring John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara. *Colonel Yorke commands* a fort near the Mexican border and his job is to quieten marauding Indians. Life becomes even more complicated when his estranged wife turns up along with his trooper son. John Ford directed.
9.00 Pot Black 81. The second semi-final sees Eddie Charlton of Australia and Cliff Thorburn from Canada battling to see who will face Jim Wych in next week's final.
9.50 One Man and his Dog. Three Welsh shepherds compete for the honour of representing their country in the final of the International Sheepdog Championship. *The competitors and their dogs* are introduced by Phil Drabble with Eric Halsall.
10.30 Special Hospital. A look at the new £30 million Park Lane psychiatric hospital near Liverpool. Will it be a *success or will it become* as notorious as the Broadmoors and the Ramptons? The reporter is Eric Robson.
10.55 Newsnight. The latest news plus the stories behind today's headlines from Peter Snow, Charles Wheeler, John Tusa and Peter Hobday.
11.40 Racing from Cheltenham. Highlights of the action at the opening day's racing in the National Hunt Festival. The programme ends at 12.05 am.

THAMES

9.30am For Schools: Elementary Maths; 9.47 The faith of Islam; 10.04 Exploring cities and their musical background; 10.26 Exploring the River Trent with Bill Grundy; 10.48 A-level chemistry: Esterification; 11.05 Maths for pre ten-year olds; 11.22 Elementary science; 11.39 Exploring the leisure and work ethic.
12.00 Jamie and the Magic Torch. *Cartoon adventures of a young boy* and his dog (r); 12.10 pm Pipkins; **12.30 The Sullivans.** Drama series about an Australian family during World War Two.
1.00 News: read by Peter Sissons. **1.20 Thames News:** with Robin Houston.
1.30 Crown Court: Continuing the case of a man accused of assaulting a former friend during a football match. **2.00 After Noon Plus:** The menopause is the subject this afternoon and Judith Chalmers will be talking to Caryle Steen, a GP and John Studd, a gynaecologist plus ten members of the public who are experiencing the physiological changes that middle-age brings. **2.45 The Mallens.** More lust and greed set in 19th century Northumberland (r). **3.45 Barney Miller.** police captain Miller has one of his officers *accused of improper conduct and a* rabbi is arrested for running a casino in his synagogue. **4.15 Dr Snuggles.** Cartoon adventures of an old inventor. With the voice of Peter Ustinov. **4.20 Take a Chance.** Another comic episode set in a theatrical boarding house. **4.45 Ace Reports.** Live action and entertainment for pre-teenagers. **5.15 Emmerdale Farm:** Annie Sugden is welcomed home after her operation.
5.45 News. 6.00 Thames News. 6.25 Help! Viv Taylor Gee with information on CATS, a support service, based in North London, for families with mentally handicapped children.
6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Looks Familiar: Denis Norden with guests Gloria Swanson, Bob Monkhouse and Peter Noble reminisce about the stars of the Thirties and Forties.
7.30 Bognor: The reluctant sleuth is still on the trail of the murderer who did away with the gossip columnist of the Daily Globe. **8.00 Robin's Nest:** Comedy series about the owners of a bistro. **8.30 Janet and Company:** *More impressions from* the talented Janet Brown who is assisted this week by Roy Kinnear.
9.00 Play: The Perfect House: by Patrice Chaplin and starring Ann Lynn. Victoria is newly divorced and *meets a charming* South American who turns out to be a lot more trouble than she ever imagined.
10.00 News.
10.30 A Turn Up in a Million — The Life of Ernest Bevin: Bernard Archard narrates this documentary on the Life of the man who was born one hundred years ago. (see Personal Choice).
11.30 Paris: After adopting a baby from a 17-year old girl a year ago Al Ross and his wife receive a demand for $10,000 in cash and the return of the baby to the girl.
12.25 Close: with Johnny Morris.

Radio 4

6.00 am News Briefing.
6.10 Farming Today.
6.30 Today.
7.00, 8.00 News.
7.30, 8.30 Headlines.
8.35 Yesterday in Parliament.
9.00 News.
9.05 Tuesday Call.
10.00 News.
10.02 From Our Own Correspondent.
10.30 Daily Service.
10.45 Story: Sea Call, By Norrie Hearn.
11.00 News.
11.05 Play: Never Give all the Heart, by Judith Arthy.
11.35 Wildlife.
12.00 News.
12.02 pm You and Yours.
12.30 Down Your Way.
12.55 Weather.
1.00 The World at One.
1.40 The Archers.
2.00 *News.*
2.02 Woman's Hour.
3.00 News.
3.02 Wuthering Heights (4).†
4.00 Studies and Shadows.
4.15 Mary O'Hara Sings.†
4.45 The Householder (2).
5.00 PM.
5.55 Weather.
6.00 News.
6.30 Brain of Britain.†
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 Medicine Now.
7.50 Back to the Beach Head (see Personal Choice).
8.35 Love's Old Sweet Song (2).
9.05 In Touch.
9.30 Kaleidoscope.
10.00 The World Tonight.
10.30 Cliché (1).†
11.00 *Anna of the Five Towns* (2).
11.15 Financial World Tonight.
11.30 Today in Parliament.
12.00 News.
12.15 am-12.23 Shipping forecast.
VHF
9.05 am Schools: Deutsch für die Overstufe (8); Music Interlude; Voix de *France* (8); Music Interlude; News; Music Interlude; Playtime.
10.30-10.45 Listen with Mother.
11.00-12.00 Schools: Lets Move! (2); Music Interlude; Introducing Science.
2.00 pm-3.00 Schools: History — ...ience; Stories ...
11.00 Study on 4: ... (20).
11.30-12.10 am Open University: Aural Training (1); Sounds Without Words.

Radio 3

6.55 am Weather.
7.00 News.
7.05 Records: Hadyn, Bach, Mozart (K388), Beethoven.†
8.00 News.
8.05 Records: Gliere, Balkirev, Prokofiev (Sym 7).†
9.00 News.
9.05 Week's *Composer:* Fauré.†
10.00 Piano (Milne): Mozart, Leighton, Medtner, Chopin.†
11.30 Choir: Palestrina.†
12.10 pm BBC Concert Orch/Lawrence, pt 1: Glinka, Abril.†
1.00 News.
1.05 Six Continents.
1.25 BBCCO, pt 2: Kodaly.†
2.00 Harpsichord *(Pinnock)*: Bach, Handel.†
2.25 Cricket: West Indies v England.
4.55 News.
5.00 Mainly for Pleasure.†
7.00 Story: Two Rooms, by Jill Burrows.
7.30 RLPO/Janowski (live from Liverpool). pt 1: Dvorak, Penderecki (Vln Conc — Pauk).†
8.20 Poetry: Alice Meynell.
8.40 RLPO, pt 2: Beethoven (Sym 5).†
9.30 Piano (Schiff): Bach.†
10.00 Conversations with Artists: Andy Warhol.
10.25 Choir: Dunstable, St Godric, Maxwell Davies.†
11.00 News.
11.05 Record: Irish songs.†
11.15-11.30 Cricket.
VHF
5.55-6.55 am Open University: Portraiture — Part 1; From Design to Dissolution; French Organ Tradition.
2.25 pm South German RSO/Almeida: Mozart.†
3.10 Composer's Portrait: Jeremy Dale Roberts.†
4.25-4.55 Jazz Today.†
11.55-12.55 am Open University: *Down with Equality; Decision* Making In Britin; History of Mathematics.

Radio 2

5.00 am Bob Kilbey.† 7.30 Ray More.† 10.00 Jimmy Young.† 12.00 David Hamilton.† 2.00 Steve Jones.† 4.00 Much More Music.† 6.00 *John Dunn.† 8.00 Sport: Cricket;* International Boxing. 10.00 The Law Game. 10.30 Funny You Should Ask. 11.00 Brian Matthews. 2.00 am-5.00 You and the Night and the Music.†

Radio 1

5.00 am As Radio 2. 7.00 Mike Read. 9.00 Simon Bates. 11.00 Andy Peebles. 12.30 pm Newsbeat. 12.45 *Paul Burnett. 2.30 Dave Lee Travis.* 4.30 Peter Powell. 7.00 Talkabout. 8.00 Richard Skinner. 10.00 John Peel.† 12.00 Close.
VHF RADIOS 1 and 2: 5.00 am With Radio 2. 8.00 pm The Leading Ladies.† 9.00 The Songwriters.† 10.00 With Radio 1. 12.00-5.00 am With Radio 2.

World Service

BBC World Service can be received in Western Europe on medium wave (648 kHz, 463m) at the following times (GMT):—
6.00 am Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 Twenty-four Hours. 7.45 Network UK. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections 8.15 Europa. 8.30 Baker's Half-Dozen. 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of the British Press. 9.15 The World Today. 9.30 *Financial News. 9.40 Look Ahead.* 9.45 The English Miniature. 10.00 Discovery. 10.30 John Peel. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News about Britain. 11.15 Letter from London. 11.25 Scotland This Week. 11.30 Sports International. 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15 pm Famous Opera Houses. 12.45 Sports Round-up. 1.00 World News. 1.09 Twenty-four Hours. 1.30 Network UK. 1.45 A Jolly Good *Show. 2.30 With Great Pleasure.* 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 Outlook. 4.00 World News. 4.09 Commentary. 4.15 Racing. 4.30 Four Hands in Harmony. 4.45 The World Today. 5.00 World News. 5.09 Scotland This Week. 5.15 My Word! 8.00 World News. 8.09 Twenty-four Hours. 9.15 The Pleasure's Yours 10.00 World News. 10.09 The World Today. 10.25 Scotland This Week. 10.30 *Financial News. 10.40 Reflections.* 10.45 Sports Round-up. 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 Classical Record Review. 11.30 Brain of Britain. 12.00 World News. 12.09 am News about Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 A Jolly Good Show. 1.15 Outlook. 1.45 Report on Religion. 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review of the British Press. 2.15 Four Hands in Harmony. 2.30 With Great *Pleasure. 3.00 World News.* 3.09 News about Britain. 3.15 The World Today. 3.30 Discovery. 4.00 Newsdesk. 5.45 The World Today.

WAVELENGTHS: Radio 1 medium wave 275m/1089kHz or 285m1053kHz. Radio 2 med wave 330/909kHz or 433m/693kHz and 88-91 VHF. *Radio 3* med wave *247m/1215kHz* and *90-92.5 VHF*. Radio 4 long wave 1500m/200kHz and 92-95 VHF. Greater London area only; med wave 720kHz/417m. LBC 261m, 97.3 VHF. capital 194m, 95.8 VHF. World Service: med wave 648kHz (46.3m). BBC Radio London 206m, 94.9 VHF.

REGIONAL TV

ATV

As Thames except: 12.30 pm-1.00 Gardening Today. 1.20-1.30 News. 3.45-4.15 Looks Familiar. 5.15-5.45 Diff'rent Strokes. 6.00 News. 6.05 Crossroads. 6.30 ATV Today 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 11.30 News. 11.35-12.05 am Bullin's Darts Championship.

Southern

As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 3.45-4.15 Looks Familiar. 5.15 Betty Boop. 5.20-5.45 *Crossroads*. 6.00 Day by Day. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 11.30 SWAT. 12.25 am Weather followed by *Hard Awakening.*

Granada

As Thames except 1.20 pm-1.30 Granada Reports. 3.45-4.15 Looks Familiar. 5.15-5.45 Diff'rent Strokes. 6.00 Granada Reports. 6.25 This is your Right 6.30 Crossroads. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 11.30 After All That, This. 11.40-12.45 am New Avengers.

Tyne Tees

As Thames except: Starts 9.20 am Good Word. 9.25-9.30 News. 1.20 pm-1.30 News Lookaround. 3.45-4.15 Looks Familiar. 5.15-5.45 Diff'rent Strokes. 6.00 News. 6.02 Crossroads. 6.25 Northern Life. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 10.30 News. 10.32 Turn Up in a Million. 11.30 WRRP in Cincinnati. 12.00-12.05 am Makers in Northumbria.

Westward

As Thames except: 12.27 pm Gus Honeybun's Birthdays. 12.30-1.00 Gardening Today. 1.20-1.30 News. 3.45-4.15 Looks Familiar. 6.00-6.35 Westward Diary. 7.00-7.30 Benson. 10.31 News. 10.34 Turn Up in a Million. 11.30 Snooker. 12.15 am-12.20 Faith for Life.

HTV

As Thames except: 12.30 pm-1.00 George Hamilton IV. 1.20-1.30 News. 3.45-4.15 Looks Familiar. 5.15 Heckling Hare. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Report West 6.50 Definition. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 10.28-10.30 News. 11.30-12.00 Police Surgeon.
HTV CYMRU/WALES: As HTV West except: 9.47 am-10.02 Wales and the Sea. 10.48-11.03 Believe it or Not. 12.00-12.05 pm Poli a Pili. 12.05-12.10 Calimero. 4.15-4.45 Gwesty Gwirion. 6.00-6.15 Y Dydd. 6.15-6.30 Report Wales. 10.30-11.15 Heddiw A Ddilyn Ddoe 11.15-11.45 World in Action.

Channel

As Thames except: 12.00 Closedown. 12.30 pm-1.00 Gardening Today. 1.20-1.30 News. 3.45-4.15 Looks Familiar. 6.00-6.35 Channel Report. 7.00-7.30 Benson. 10.28 News. 10.34 Turn up in a Million. 11.30-12.15 am Snooker.

Grampian

As Thames except: Starts 9.25 am-9.30 First Thing. 12.30 pm-1.00 Simply Sewing. 1.20-1.30 News. 3.45-4.15 Looks Familiar. 6.00-6.35 North Tonight. 7.00-7.30 Welcome to the Ceilidh. 11.30 Quincy. 12.25 am-12.30 News.

Scottish

As Thames except: 12.30 pm-1.00 Gardening Today. 1.20-1.30 News. 3.45-4.15 Looks Familiar. 5.15 Traveller's Tales. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Scotland Today. 6.20 Job Spot. 6.30 What's Your Problem ? 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. *11.30 Late Call. 11.35-12.30 am Kate Loves a Mystery.

Yorkshire

As Thames except: 12.30 pm-1.00 Looks Familiar 1.20-1.30 News. 3.45-4.15 Calendar. 5.15-5.45 Touch of Fashion. 6.00-6.35 Calendar. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 11.30-12.00 Jazz.

Ulster

As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 Lunchtime. 3.45 Looks Familiar. 4.13-4.15 News. 5.15 Cartoon. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Good Evening Ulster 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 11.30-11.40 Bedtime.

Border

As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 3.45-4.15 Looks Familiar. 5.15-5.45 Electric Theatre Show. 6.00-6.35 Lookaround. 7.00 Emmerdale Farm. 11.30-11.33 News.

Anglia

As Thames except: 12.30 pm-1.00 Out of Town. 1.20-1.30 News 3.45-4.15 Looks Familiar. 6.00-6.35 About Anglia. 7.00-7.30 Life Begins at Forty. 11.30 Charlie's Angels. 12.25 am Pilgrim Ways

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THE TIMES

First Published 1785

BIRTHS

MARRIAGES

DEATHS

FIELDEN.—On March 15th in a car accident, Noel Lindsay, aged 86, widow of Arthur Nicholas Fielden, of Longden Manor, Shrewsbury. Funeral private, no flowers.

IN MEMORIAM

SHAW-KENNEDY, ALEXANDER JOHN.—Died 17th March, 1980. Always remembered with love. His wife, Marion.

VANDELEUR, Lt. COL. G.A.M., D.S.O., Irish Guards.—On March 9th, 1978. In loving memory of Giles on St. Patrick's Day.

AITCHISON.—In loving memory of Leslie Aitchison, D.Met., who died on March 17th, 1973.—R.I.P.

SHAW-KENNEDY, ALEXANDER JOHN.—Remembered with great affection, his daughter Anne and grandson Jamie.

FORTHCOMING EVENT

CONTEMPORARY ART 1940-1980. Also modern drawings and prints, two lecture courses begin April 21st at The ICA. Information from Modern Art Studies, 140 Sloane St., SW1. 01-730 5680

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAKING A WILL IS SOMETHING WE TEND TO PUT OFF AND OFF

Some people leave it too late — and they leave their relatives in an awful mess. Oxfam's free leaflet, "Will Making Simply Explained", tells you how to make your will in simple, easy-to-understand language. It also tells you how you can help some of the very poorest people in the world, without using any capital now and how to reduce your tax liability.

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HAVE YOU NOTICED the queues opposite Harrods? Guernseys Galore are having a sale. See Seasonal Sales.

£100 off your new handmade Sofa. See JBD For Sales column.

SPOTOGAS SPOTS. — Carbon Monoxide in Home, Car, Boat or Caravan. 01-431 0266, 0257.

NORLAND TRAINED NANNY wanted in London, end of May. See Domestic and Catering.

GREEK TYPIST. Freelance. See Secretarial Vacancies.

CIVIL ENGINEER for Saudi Arabia. —See Gen. Vacs.

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPORT AND RECREATION

YACHTS AND BOATS

SEASONAL SALES

UK HOLIDAYS

SHORT LETS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHEN PETER PAN SWEPT THE DARLING CHILDREN OFF THEIR FEET . . .

Phone Sarah C. Mumford on 01-278 9161 NOW.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,476

ACROSS
1 Dickens man heard shelling peas? (7).
5 Dogfish played? (7).
9 Sapper rookie to make good (5).
10 Reason to restrict supply of drink . . . (9).
11 . . . when one opts for rounds (6).
12 Freezing conditions reflected in the outlook (8).
14 The Peninsula is in a disturbed state (5).
15 Top players noted in court circulars? (9).
18 Strange U-turn Alan makes (9).
20 Vessel sailing in River Exe becalmed (5).
22 A setter whose work often sparkles (8).
24 Fish upriver to get 4, conceivably (6).
26 London's big meat bargain for the freezer? (9).
27 How would the printers' unit finish a pie? (5).
28 Making tea to bring about East-West meeting (7).
29 Gossip learns of agreement (7).

DOWN
1 A pair sups differently but at equal pace (4, 3).
2 Record lover (3, 4).
3 Fresh run of paper (9).
4 Henry's widow was a young 24 (4).
5 Game Tom finds restful? (4, 6).
6 Lozenge? Right ho, doc (5).
7 With air rising I can comprehend that a flier fell in this sea (7).
8 Cicero's speech unintelligible to Casca (5).
13 Pastrycook's fat, but reducing the spread (10).
16 TV photographer's handy equipment? (3, 6).
17 Time for an original heavenly creation (6, 3).
19 "The moving moon went up the sky, And —— did abide" (Coleridge) (7).
21 Glassfuls—of highballs? (7).
22 Smooth operator appeased a hunter's hunger (5).
23 Cheeky Florentine painter? (5).
25 Trap reset by Noah's eldest (4).

Solution of Puzzle No 15,475

PERSONAL COLUMNS

ALSO ON PAGE 22

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

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23 April	Corfu	Aghios Gordis	3	15	H/B	£229
30 April	Corfu	Ermones Beach	3	8	H/B	£169
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25 April	Majorca	'Sunsaver'	–	15	F/B	£169
21 April	Tenerife	La Paz	4	8	H/B	£189
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27 April	Crete	Anthoussa Beach	3	8	H/B	£159
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(continued on page 22)

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